



# Town of Darien

2009-2010 Annual Report







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## Message from the First Selectman

As a town, Darien has a lot to be proud of. Our community gives back in volunteer time and effort like no other. This annual report is an opportunity to look back, report to all of the stakeholders that make Darien a special place, and celebrate the successes that improved our community.

Illustrated in the following pages is just some of what we've accomplished and an opportunity to thank the people who have worked so hard to make our homes, schools, Town departments and commissions, library, parks, and infrastructure better and better for families each year.

Our annual report for 2009-10 documents a year of progress and growth. We are all fortunate to be living in a town where many are willing to work long hours to make Darien a tremendous community. This report demonstrates how this community was able to come together to deliver services, address the needs of our residents, improve the quality of public safety and education, and continue to improve in the face of a difficult economy.

The progress in this report wouldn't have happened without the dedication and very hard work of many volunteers, our Town employees and the many hundreds of people who make things happen in our community, who serve with passion and intelligence. Looking forward, the current Board of Selectmen continues to work to identify issues that are of the utmost importance to all members of our community. Together, we work towards continuing the progress we have already made to improve the overall quality of life for our residents.

It is my pleasure and honor to serve our community as your First Selectman. I thank you for the opportunity and privilege.

David M. Campbell  
First Selectman





## Beautification Commission



The Beautification Commission met during fiscal 2009-2010 to discuss and manage new and ongoing activities that support its mission of maintaining and improving the overall physical appearance of Darien. The Commission worked actively with town groups – including the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Darien Chamber of Commerce, the Tree Conservancy, the Green Team and many local volunteers – to accomplish its goals.

**Adopt-a-Garden:** The Adopt-a-Garden program was launched in 2006 to offer local merchants and sponsors the opportunity to “adopt” highly visible traffic islands in downtown locations. Each adopted location features well manicured gardens with signage recognizing the merchant or sponsor’s participation. Program participation in 2009-2010 expanded to include a range of sponsor types in 13 locations. Current program sponsors include: Darien Board of Realtors, Complete Designs, Foster’s Inc., The Gardener’s Center, The Growing Concern, Kelly Associates Real Estate, Jim McLoughlin Landscaping LLC, Nielsen’s Florist & Garden Shop, and Noroton Heights Shopping Center. Additionally, two new sponsors signed up: the Darien Democratic Town Committee and the Garden Club of Darien. Additional downtown sites are available for adoption. The Beautification Commission welcomes all interested organizations as sponsors.

**Adopt-a-Spot:** The Beautification Commission manages the Adopt-a-Spot (AAS) program, under which neighborhood groups and volunteers look after small street center islands throughout Darien to ensure that they are landscaped, watered and maintained. There are currently 23 AAS locations in Darien.

**Berm Renovation:** The renovation of the berm off of Squab Lane can best be described by the expression “It takes a

village” when it comes to the degree of local support the project has received. Phase I began in the fall of 2009 on the center section, and involved a design plan developed by Lesley Kroll, a Darien landscape architect and member of the Beautification Commission, and the removal of weeds, shrubs and invasive vines down to the root level. Additionally, approximately 1,000 daffodil bulbs were planted on the cleared berm. In the winter of 2010, members of the Beautification Commission worked with the DPW and Whole Foods to transport to the berm approximately two dozen large decorative boulders taken from the excavation of the new Whole Foods for placement in select locations at the base of the hill. In March, the DPW was again called upon for assistance in removing four large pine trees felled by March windstorms on Squab Lane, stump removal, grass seed sowing, and spraying for invasive vines.

Beginning in April and continuing throughout the summer, Beautification Commission representatives and numerous volunteers continued work at the berm, where they planted approximately 4,000 pachysandra plants and two dozen flowering shrubs (e.g. azaleas, rose of Sharon, hydrangea and spiraea).

**Bulbs and Flowering Plants:** In the fall of 2009, the Beautification Commission and numerous volunteers planted approximately 10,000 flowering bulbs throughout town. Volunteers included the DCA, Senior Mens’ Association, various Cub Scout dens and Girl Scout troupes, and the OxRidge and Hindley Elementary Schools. As part of this effort, administrators, parents and students from the Hindley School undertook a cleanup and planting effort at the stone wall at the corner of their campus at Nearwater Lane and the Post Road. The project involved the ongoing spraying and removal of poison ivy along the stone wall, and the planting of approximately 2,000 flowering bulbs.

**Cemetery Maintenance:** The Beautification Commission has identified select prominent historic cemeteries in Darien where maintenance activities – such as grass mowing, weeding, clearing debris and fallen tree limbs, and repairing stone walls – have been undertaken on an as-needed basis. Due to recent budget cuts, the Commission is considering implementing an “adoption” program under which these cemeteries would be maintained on a volunteer basis by local residents.

**Cleanup Days:** The Beautification Commission and Chamber of Commerce hold annual cleanup efforts every fall and spring at various parks, beaches, parking lots, woods and roads throughout Darien. In the spring of 2010, more than 225 volunteers pitched in from such organizations as: the Kiwanis Club; Friends of Weed Beach; Friends of Cherry Lawn Park; OxRidge School students, teachers and parents; Darien Land Trust; Friends of Olson, Dunlop and Sellecks Woods; Cub Scout Pack 161; The Depot; Girl Scout Troop 50815; Senior Men’s Association; the Darien Y Guides and Indian Princesses; Hindley School volunteers; the George Family; the Qua Family; the Darien Green Team; ABC students; Darien High School students; Tokeneke School volunteers; and Anthony Loparco, owner of Upper Crust Bagel, who regularly donates bagels and coffee to feed the hungry crowds.

**Spring Townwide Trash Pick-up:** In the spring of 2010, the Beautification Commission, Tree Conservancy and Green Team worked on a grassroots effort to eliminate the Darien townwide spring trash pick-up program. The groups held meetings to highlight their concerns and gain support, wrote letters to the local papers, and met with First Selectman Dave Campbell to offer suggestions on alternate programs. Although the Board of Selectmen determined that it was too late in the year to rescind the practice, the

group was pleased to hear that the program will be disbanded in the near future. Suggestions will be offered to townspeople on alternate ways to more effectively dispose of their trash.

**Hanging Baskets:** In 2009-2010, the hanging baskets program – the Beautification Commission’s signature project – was expanded from 124 to 144 baskets, which were hung along the Post Road from Sedwick Avenue to the Noroton area. During the winter, the baskets were planted and tended to by Beds and Borders of Long Island; in the spring, Nielson’s Florists provided truck delivery to Darien – free-of-charge. Hung from May to October, these baskets help beautify Darien’s downtown and are expertly maintained by Complete Design, a local landscape design firm.

**Noroton Heights Improvements:** In 2009-2010, the Beautification Commission focused on several projects in downtown Noroton Heights. Improvements included planting approximately 600 daffodil bulbs along the sidewalks and evergreen beds at the Noroton Heights train station; working with the DPW to clear out poison ivy and overgrown shrubs along the steps leading to the train platform; and planting and placing numerous flowering urns in front of the stores on Heights Road to match the color scheme and design of the flowering baskets in downtown Darien. Additionally, the Darien Democratic Town Committee sponsored the gardens along the Noroton Heights train tracks at the entrance to the commuter parking lot. These gardens were planted in the fall of 2010 with an array of flowering bulbs, shrubs and flowers to ensure blooms over a three-season period.

**Signage and Regulations:** The Beautification Commission continued to work in 2009-2010 on the issues of inappropriate and illegal signs, and the lack of enforcement of Darien’s current signage regulations. Areas of concern include the

placement of illegal realtor signs within road rights-of-way, ambiguously worded regulations regarding signage set-back limits, the placement and lack of prompt removal of temporary signs (e.g. political, special events) on roads or sidewalks, and fines for non-compliance. The Commission continues to meet with the first selectman and other appropriate town authorities to resolve these and other signage issues.

## Board of Education

### Elementary Schools

The 2009-2010 school year saw Darien elementary school administrators and teachers continue their focus on educational improvement with an emphasis on the four goals set forth in the “Plan on a Page”:

- *Develop and implement tri-annual assessments:* Teachers, with support from administrators and support staff, continued to develop and implement the K-5 system of tri-annual assessments in literacy and math.
- *Use assessment information to tailor instruction:* Assessments enabled school teams to monitor the growth of every student, and to develop and implement a systematic plan to tailor instruction to the learning abilities of all students in order to maximize individual academic growth.
- *Continue to refine and implement the process for SRBI:* Grade level teams and support specialists refined the SRBI process for providing support in literacy, and also expanded the process to provide support in math. In addition, a committee of teachers and administrators began work to develop levels of support in behavior.
- *Complete the Darien K-5 Social Studies Curriculum:* Development and publishing of units of study have been completed for anticipated implementation in 2010-2011.

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Prior to the beginning of the school year, Smart Board presentation systems were installed in each kindergarten classroom, thereby completing the implementation of these systems in every grade level classroom in the district.

Professional development continued to be a focus of the administration and teaching staff. Such topics as differentiation of instruction, utilization of assessment data, and acquisition of knowledge and best practices were featured in professional development activities. Staff also participated in a various activities during the summer, many of which were funded by the Sydnor and Miriam Reiss Teachers’ Fund for Further Study and the Barbara Harrington Grants, provided by the Darien Advocates for Education of the Gifted.

Enrichment in all subject areas took place throughout the year. Each elementary school class/grade level participated in two curriculum-related field trips and two in-class enrichment activities.

Darien elementary schools continue to be exciting places to learn as staff strives to nurture and challenge every student beyond basic knowledge and skills.

**Middlesex Middle School**

Middlesex Middle School served 1,158 students during 2009-2010. A total of 12.75 academic teams were comprised of 397 sixth graders, 383 seventh graders, and 378 eighth graders. Additional sections were created at the sixth and seventh grade levels to accommodate the numbers of students in those grades. Teams consisted of teachers from the following academic areas: English, math, science, social studies, and world language. Teaming has been an integral part of the daily curriculum at Middlesex for the past 25 years.

During the year, the faculty focused on strengthening the connections

between content areas, technology, and instructional practices. Through a “moving from great to outstanding” theme and the lens of 21st century skills, teachers challenged themselves to include these skills into curricular areas. Staff development time, faculty meetings, and classroom observation opportunities were valuable sources of time for deeper discussion around these areas. Work also continued to improve student writing abilities, implement common assessments, and create learning environments that include a higher cognitive demand. Teachers also worked with other school and district personnel in an effort to move instructional technology forward.

During 2009-2010, many opportunities were created to provide staff with the time and support to become more comfortable with the notion of learning together and build increased rigor and consistency across all grade levels. Teachers continue to use the Teacher Web website – linked to the Middlesex website – to post their expectations, weekly lesson outlines, and homework as a means of keeping lines of communication open to parents. The ASPEN parent portal also has allowed for increased communication with parents on student performance.

Special Education programs continued to be integrated into the Middlesex community. In 2009-2010, there were a minimum of three co-taught teams on all three grade levels that served students through the co-teaching model. Significant professional growth has taken place among staff as they work together to meet the needs of all students in their classes. Staff believes that it is more beneficial to students when two certified teachers bring their teaching strengths to the classroom.

Good citizenship continued to be an ongoing goal of the Middlesex community. In addition to holding students accountable

to the Student Code of Behavior and Middlesex’s Five Beliefs, students are expected to be good “global citizens.” As a follow-up to last year’s “building bridges” theme, Middlesex students continued to raise awareness and funds to help build a library and technology lab for students who learn in the rainforest of Darien, Panama.

Guidance counselors worked alongside team teachers to guide activities that reflect the age-level concerns of students. In addition, the Student Council continues to play a major role in helping to create an awareness of good citizenship and civic responsibility through fundraisers and drives organized for the benefit of others in the Darien community and surrounding communities. Candy cane drives, Penny Wars, a Walk-A-Thon, and clothing and food drives enabled Middlesex students to make donations to Operation Hope, Americares, ALS Foundation, American Cancer Society, the ONE Organization, and other charitable organizations. Individual teams also initiated contact with local charities and offered their services. Once again, Middlesex was one of the top fundraising schools in the nation during the “Trick or Treat” program for UNICEF.

School activities, programs, and events continued to flourish at Middlesex. CMT scores continued to reflect the students’ hard work. Several students earned Presidential Physical Fitness Awards, and several others won state-level awards at the annual COLT world language competitions. The Camerata Singers and Jazz Band competed at the Western Connecticut Regional competition and received superior ratings. Students also actively participated in debates, the National Geography Bee, and the National Spelling Bee. All eighth graders completed a major research project for the Middlesex science exhibition, and, once again, many seventh graders participated in the Johns

Hopkins CTY Program. Middlesex jazz, choral and orchestra students brought home nine awards from the Music in the Parks competition in May.

Two overnight trips were held during the year, in addition to several school-related day trips. In October, eighth graders spent three days in Boston to lay the foundation for the eighth grade social studies curriculum. Because of the number of students in the sixth grade, “The Expo” trip was spread across two Nature’s Classroom sites: one in Colebrook and one in Ivoryton. Field trips were also made to the Museum of Natural History, Norwalk Maritime Center, the Bronx Zoo, Dance Asia performances, and science museums in New York City. More than fifty club offerings enabled students to participate in the Activity/Club program, which is built into the school day on a biweekly basis. Winter and spring concerts spotlighted the efforts of students in the band, chorus, and orchestra. The sports program, which continued to involve a large number of students, featured the opening of the school’s newly refurbished fitness center, thanks to the efforts of the Middlesex Parents’ Association.

As spring approached, attention focused on transitioning the eighth graders into high school and welcoming incoming sixth graders. Students from each elementary school spent a morning at Middlesex to help with the transition process. Parents were invited to sixth grade and ninth grade open houses to learn about the transition process and programs available to their children. Once again, the Eighth Grade Promotion Day was a very special occasion. Several students shared their reflections, hopes, and dreams to an audience of peers, town officials, and parents through the creation of a video montage completely designed, created, and implemented by students.

**Darien High School (DHS)**

The *Alternate Learning Program (ALP)* continued its 35-year mission to provide a challenging and meaningful education to all students. During the year, ALP students performed more than 160 hours of community service at Person-to-Person and Kiwanis Club events. Students also raised money for a breakfast, graduation picnic, and community-building field trip to the new SoNo Field House, all of which brought a sense of collective purpose and identity to the group. Two ALP students graduated mid-year; five more graduated in June. Five plan to attend college at least part-time; one will attend technical school.

The *DHS Art Program* emphasizes creative thinking, skill development, problem-solving and the appreciation of art history. Through specific instruction and individual experimentation, students develop the ability to utilize the elements and principles of design. Student work is posted on the Art Department website.

DHS art courses continued to grow in popularity. More than fifty percent of the student body elected art courses covering a wide range of artistic media. A drawing class was added to provide students with the opportunity to improve their skills using a variety of materials and techniques.

During 2009-2010, DHS students participated in a variety of local and regional exhibitions, including the Stamford Art Show and the Norwalk Community College Art Show. The Connecticut Association of School Arts Award was given to a DHS student for excellence in the visual arts. In the Darien Arts Council exhibit, students won awards in drawing, painting, photography and ceramics; a \$1,000.00 scholarship for outstanding achievement was awarded to a senior. DHS students were also awarded the Darien Kiwanis Award for

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outstanding achievement in visual art and Art Department Faculty Awards in two dimensional art, photography, graphic design and ceramics. Once again, graduating art students were accepted at some of the top colleges and art schools in the nation.

The third annual Arts Festival, which took place on May 26, saw the Art Department, Music Department, Technology Education Department, Drama Department and Dance Club co-host a celebration of the arts in the DHS courtyard. The day's agenda included music from the jazz band, chorus and orchestra, and a special performance by the cast of *Fiddler on the Roof*. The Tech Ed Department experimented with robots and a fuel cell car, and also gave wood-turning and welding demonstrations. The Art Department demonstrated use of the potter's wheel and provided opportunities to build with clay and create a mural painting. Innovative face painting, photography and silk screening were also featured. The Drama Department performed scenes from various plays, did dance demonstrations and played interactive theater games. As part of the visual art show, more than 1,000 works of student art were displayed outside the auditorium.

The *Business/Computer Department* comprises two areas: business education and computer technology. Courses offered in 2009-2010 were: Investment/Personal Finance, Youth and the Law, Business Law, Computer Applications, Beginning Computer Science, and AP Computer Science A. The Investment/Personal Finance class visited UBS in Stamford, where they toured the trading floor, met with a panel of experts, and played a trading game. Students in the class were among 78,000 students to participate in the U.S. Department of Treasury's Financial Literacy Challenge. Nine DHS students scored in the top 20%; DHS students scored an average of 76% overall versus the national average of 70%.

The Youth and Law class enjoyed two visits by Darien Youth officers, who discussed the students' fourth amendment rights and other issues pertaining to high school students. The class also toured the Stamford Courthouse where they visited courtrooms and observed a defense attorney questioning the defendant in a murder trial and the pre-trial arraignment of a suspect in a local home invasion. The students also were treated to a backroom visit to the holding cells.

In the Business Law class, students participated in negotiation exercises centered on contracts and collective bargaining. They also held job interview simulations and researched student credit cards and automobile purchases.

Six students in AP Computer Science A competed in the Quinnipiac Real-Time Programming Contest and placed second in a field of thirteen teams. In the GE Programming Contest, the three-student DHS team placed fifth in a field of the top 20 public, private and parochial schools in Connecticut. In addition, one DHS student placed fifth in a field of 100 and won a \$100 gift certificate. A Web design course was approved by the Board of Education for implementation in 2010-2011.

*English Department* highlights included: the first year of Writers' Workshop B, a course that focuses on preparing ninth and tenth graders for the CAPT; and the first-time participation of DHS students in Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation competition. Approximately 375 students participated at the classroom level by memorizing and reciting a poem in front of classmates. Twenty-one classroom champions then represented DHS at the state finals. A Darien tenth grader won the school competition and went on to finish in the top five at the state level.

The tenth grade English curriculum saw the addition of activities and assignments that emphasize students' increased involvement in their classrooms, school, and community. Most tenth grade classes now spend time working in book clubs, where they read and discuss books they've selected. Additionally, a panel of representatives from different classes selected films for the 10th Grade Film Series, which was piloted this year. In cooperation with the Darien Public Library, tenth grade English students met quarterly to view and discuss films with their peers. Finally, almost the entire tenth grade saw a modern adaptation of *A Doll's House* at Long Wharf Theatre.

An AP English Literature class travelled to Long Wharf Theatre to see productions of *The Fantasticks* and *Have You Seen Us?*, a world premiere written by South African playwright Athol Fugard. This year's World Literature Seminar Day included a special screening and discussion of *Invictus* at the Avon Theater in Stamford. The first semester Writers Workshop visited the Museum of Modern Art, where they focused on the Tim Burton exhibit.

The Senior Internship Pilot Program culminated with an internship fair where senior interns displayed portfolios of their month-long, off-campus experiences at Stamford Hospital, the United Nations, and the Darien Building Department, as well as internships with Congressman Jim Himes, a clothing designer, the Silvermine Art Guild, several physicians, and 20 other organizations in the greater Darien community.

The partnership between the students in the Introduction to Journalism classes and *The Darien Times* continued. Twice each semester, the newspaper printed the "Teen Times" section – comprised exclusively of student writing.

In October 2009, the *China Exchange Program* hosted ten students and two teachers from Shanghai No. 3 Girls' School. Thirteen DHS students and two teachers traveled to Shanghai, Hang Zhou, Nanjing, and Beijing for three weeks in April. Program highlights included: completion of a fall fundraising campaign; visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the United Nations; a tour of Washington, D.C.; and several community events, including a reception for students, host families and community members at the Darien Sports Shop and a Sunday tea for host families and program donors.

The *Foreign Language Department* provided a level of instruction that led to a number of noteworthy accomplishments, including:

- In the National Spanish Examinations, DHS students earned 24 gold, 49 silver and 39 bronze distinctions, as well as 37 honorable mentions.
- In the National French Contest, ten students were ranked in the top 10 in Connecticut.
- Five DHS students earned silver medals in the World Language Poetry Competition.
- The Mandarin program continues to expand with four levels available to approximately 55 students in the coming year.
- Total enrollment in language classes remains at approximately 1,200 students, an impressive number for elective courses.
- Field trips included a French immersion day with lunch at La Bretagne Restaurant in Stamford.

The *History Department* focused on promoting alignment and consistency within multiple sections of the same course, promoting excellence in teaching through creativity and enrichment, and using technology to enhance student learning. Teachers of the same core course

were able to build on the curriculum work of the last three years to refine and clarify expectations. Along with developing strategies and assessments that explicitly addressed reading, writing, and higher order thinking skills, groups of teachers began to assess the quality of sample student essays, exams, and research papers in order to identify steps to ensure that all students are progressing toward achieving expectations.

Staff development presentations and activities included the Gilder Lehman Summer Institute; Visions of Nature in American History; the Holocaust in Hungary in 1944; a tour of the addition to the Bates-Scofield House; a lecture at Yale on the links between Soviet institutions and the social, political and economic system of Midvale's Russia; and a workshop at the Yale Art Gallery on a student-centered method for using art to teach history.

Teachers in the department continued to grow professionally and create meaningful educational experiences for students through such special projects as a presentation on a working experience in Somaliland, a presentation on creating a small business, and a book talk for tenth grade World Studies classes about the Soviet Union and World War II. Enrichment activities, field trips, and extra credit options included: a "vacation book club" for American Studies students, and visits to Hancock Shaker Village, Old Sturbridge Village, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Cloisters, the Jewish Heritage Museum, and the Intrepid.

Law and Government classes continued to encourage students to be engaged citizens by participating in a voter registration drive and listening to presentations by state legislators and retired local elected officials.

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*Math Department* highlights included:

- CAPT score of 85.4%.
- Approximately one out of every three seniors took an AP math course.
- 100% pass rate for AP math exams with more than 92% of the students getting a 5 or a 4.
- SAT math score: 618 (highest in state).
- DHS Math Team placed 2nd in statewide competition.
- A new course, Multivariable Calculus, was approved by the Board of Education.
- An update to the Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus curriculum guides was completed.
- Department staff participated in the Tri State Consortium three-year review of mathematics district-wide.

Participation on the DHS Math Team was at an all-time high, with more than 30 members and all grades represented. The team placed 4th out of 22 teams in the Fairfield County Mathematics League, 2nd in the medium school division of the Connecticut State Mathematics Competition, and 11th out of 22 teams in the large school division of the New England Regional Mathematics Competition. Three students received certificates of distinction in the American Mathematics Contest and were invited to participate in the American Mathematics Invitational Examination.

The *DHS Library and Media Center* continued to be very busy, with an average of 1,545 visitors per day. The total number of classes served by the librarians increased during the year by 18%. Many of the additions and revisions to the website reflect the increasing use of technology, and the expanding use of the library web pages as a source of information and instructional support. Extensive use of the library's online subscription databases continued.

During 2009-2010, circulation of library resources increased by 13%, the result,

primarily, of the option by English teachers to provide a choice of books as part of the curriculum; the popularity of the Contemporary Fiction curriculum; and the promotion of pleasure reading by teachers and librarians. Enhanced library activity was further supported by students approaching staff with the idea of initiating a student-staff book club.

Additional purchases of eBooks further supported the demand for research information in an electronic format. Instruction was provided on digital storytelling for content creation (using PhotoStory 3, iMovie, and Windows Movie Maker) and online group collaboration (using Google Docs, wikis, and blogs).

The continued use of NoodleTools provided students with assistance in the creation of citations and note-taking, as well as enabling students to independently create and use their own NoodleTools account. DHS librarians also updated various instructional support materials on citations that are accessible on the library web page and continued to assist students with their Works Cited pages on a daily basis. Various teachers also have the librarians check/grade Works Cited pages and/or in paper citations for their assignments.

Trails, an assessment tool piloted last spring, was used during the year with most ninth grade Western Civilization classes. An honors section of tenth grade World Studies also used Trails in completing the second level assessment. The same assessment (level one) was administered in the fall and the spring to ninth grade students. Results from the fall assessment were used by teachers to guide instruction, and the spring assessment results showed definite improvement in all topic areas.

Significant progress was made with regard to creating a fully digital video system for the Darien Public Schools. The Central

Office and the auditorium are now equipped with remote control cameras to record meetings and events. For the first time, all DHS Parent Association meetings were videotaped and aired via the internet and Channel 78. In addition, all concerts and plays were recorded, most by DHS Video Production students.

The Blue Wave News team won second place in the ANCC Cablevision Awards. They were also named finalists in the MSG Varsity awards program for their coverage of sports at DHS, including girls' field hockey, girls' volleyball, football, boys' volleyball, boys' basketball, and boys' and girls' ice hockey.

The *Music Department* was engaged in a district-wide focus on the "Music of East Asia." Teachers participated in professional development opportunities and their various ensembles studied and performed the music of East Asia in concerts throughout the school year. Students in grades K-12 also enjoyed the Music for Youth-sponsored performance of "Music from China," a Chinese music ensemble.

In addition, the department hosted a professional development day for music teachers throughout Connecticut sponsored by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Eighty-seven teachers from ten school districts attended the sessions. DHS students were fortunate to have the opportunity to have their original music evaluated and critiqued by an esteemed panel of experts.

The Music Department also collaborated with the Music for Youth organization to sponsor their second Darien Day at the Stamford Symphony. More than 225 students and family members attended the November 15 concert.

Music Technology II is was offered for the first time in the fall of 2009. The course

provides an opportunity for students who have completed Music Technology I to study the subject matter in greater depth. Music Technology students submitted projects to Real World Remixed, an online forum for audio engineers; several DHS students made the top 20 in online voting.

The DHS Band performed at home football games, Homecoming Parade, the Memorial Day Parade and, together with the Tudor Singers, at a post parade memorial service at Spring Grove Cemetery. In addition, a record numbers of DHS students participated in the Regional Festival held at New Canaan High School, as well as in the Connecticut All-State Music Festival. All-State participants included two students from orchestra, six from chorus, and two from the band. Several members of the band, orchestra, and chorus also performed on stage and in the orchestra pit for the spring production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

The DHS Tudor Singers presented an evening candlelight concert in December, while the entire Music Department – composed of the Tudor Singers, Concert Choir, Orchestra, Pops Strings, Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble –presented their annual holiday concert in December. The Pops Cabaret was held at Middlesex in May and the annual Spring Awards Concert was held in June in the DHS Auditorium. Other performances included the Jazz Pasta Fest, featuring the DHS and MMS Jazz Ensembles, and the Chanticleer Youth Choral Festival, which featured five area high school choruses in an all-day event. Choral students were coached by members of the renowned San Francisco-based Chanticleer ensemble in preparation for a concert with the ensemble in the evening. Also, the Tudor Singers were one of two guest high school choral groups who performed with the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra in May.

The DHS Orchestra competed at a festival in New York City and received a "superior" rating. In May, the Tudor Singers, Concert Choir, Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble performed at the Great East Music Festival at Six Flags in Springfield. The Tudor Singers received a platinum rating; the Concert Choir, Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble received gold ratings.

The DHS Music Department, in collaboration with the Connecticut Association of Schools, sponsored "Bandjam" – a state-wide high school rock band festival. Two DHS bands competed: "Stealing Free Samples" and "Feedback." In addition, a concert violinist and Darien High School graduate presented a session for students in the Music Department.

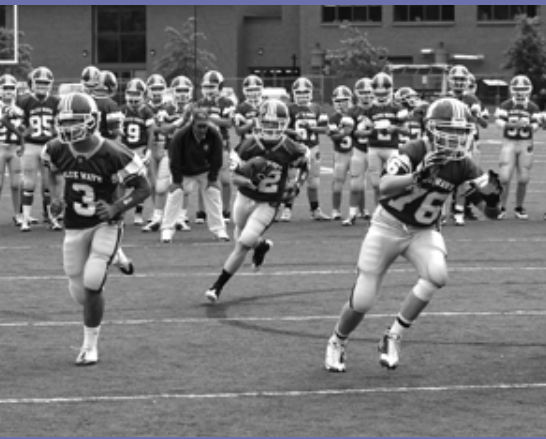
The *DHS Physical Education Program* focused on personal fitness and lifetime sports. Aerobics, badminton, tennis, golf and weight training were stressed while selected team sports provided opportunities for students to experience the benefits of regular physical activity. The Health Education Curriculum is organized to help students develop the knowledge and skills needed to deal with today's complex health-related issues. Topics such as nutrition, communicable diseases, AIDS, substance abuse, first aid and CPR are included in separate quarter-length courses.

During 2009-2010, DHS fielded 63 athletic teams in 21 different sports. The program included 32 varsity, 18 junior varsity, and 13 freshmen teams. Nearly 82.5% of the student body participated in at least one sport. Blue Wave teams brought home four state titles, four league crowns, and eight divisional championships, as well as a national title in sailing and a state championship in club rugby. In addition, four Darien coaches earned "Coach of the Year" honors. The DHS girls' volleyball

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coach was selected as the National High School Coaches Association volleyball “Coach of the Year” for 2010. Another coach was elected to the Connecticut State Coach’s Association Hall of Fame, and a former Darien athletic director was elected to the FCIAC Hall of Fame.

Highlights of the *Science Department* included:

- 64% of the students taking AP tests in physics, chemistry, biology and environmental science scored a 4 or above, with more than half achieving a top score of 5. Average scores on the SAT II subject tests in biology, chemistry and physics were 709, 733, and 650 respectively.
- The Authentic Science Research (ASR) Program completed its ninth year with a successful science symposium and students scheduled to participate in a variety of summer internships, college courses, and other research opportunities. The DHS Eco-citizens Club was established.
- The Forensic Science elective completed its second year with an increase in enrollment of more than 70%.
- The department sponsored a field trip to an orthopedic surgery training laboratory where students interested in medical careers had a hands-on opportunity to repair simulated bone fractures under the guidance of orthopedic surgeons and physician assistants.
- The Science Department Coordinator joined the board of directors of the Southern Connecticut Science and Engineering Foundation with the goal of establishing additional academic liaisons with local science and technology educators and research institutes.
- Science teachers continued to serve as class advisors, coaches, TEAM mentors, CT Challenge advisors, JETS Team advisors, and Habitat for Humanity advisors.

The *Special Education Department* continued to provide academic support and specialized instruction through

grade level learning centers, the EXCEL and CORE programs, and speech and language services. Counseling and assessment remained available through the school psychologists and social worker. Students from the EXCEL Life Skills class enjoyed breakfast in the classroom with Superintendent Don Fital twice during the school year. EXCEL students also joined with the Special Education staff to host a wonderful breakfast for the entire faculty. In the fall, CORE students organized a school wide “Toiletry Drive” to benefit Darien Social Services; they also gave presentations during the Memorial Day flag ceremony. In addition, students visited the Darien Senior Center and a local nursery school, where they read to children. Special Education teachers currently co-teach numerous classes at all grade levels, collaborating with teachers from the core academic departments.

In the area of *Technology Support*, 2009-2010 marked the completion of the first year using ASPEN, the new student administration software. Printing of DHS and Middlesex Middle School report cards was accomplished using Print-2-Mail, a system that creates addressed, folded, sealed and postage-ready report cards.

#### DHS CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

The *Art Club* met weekly in an open studio environment where students were encouraged to work on projects in their art courses, or on independent art projects. Members also helped to organize the Arts Festival and provided creative ideas as to how the Arts Festival could grow.

*buildOn* (previously called Building with Books) is part of a national program with three main goals, which students fulfilled this year: performing local community service; raising funds to build schools in developing countries; and expanding knowledge of the global community. DHS students performed more than 800

hours of community service at Darien Book Aid, Person-to-Person and other locations. Twice during the year students participated in joint service projects with students from other chapters of buildOn. Students raised more than \$3,600 towards building schools in developing countries by selling “Blue Wave” foam hands at sporting events, holding a “buy a brick” program, and holding a pie-throwing fundraiser at the high school carnival. For the second straight year, the DHS local chapter of buildOn won the “Golden Brick Award” for raising the most money within Connecticut. Two students were scheduled to go abroad for two weeks in the summer to assist in the building of a new schoolhouse.

The *Challenge Team*, comprised of three seniors and two juniors, participated in the 2009-2010 Challenge Competition, a highly competitive academic quiz bowl held in New York City that tests students’ knowledge in history, politics, English, the arts, mathematics, science, pop culture, and current events. The DHS team placed in the top eight schools in the state and advanced to the third round of the competition.

*Community Council* completed another successful year drawing members of the DHS community into an environment that promotes dialogue. The Council put on a successful homecoming parade, half-time show, and dance. In addition, the Council was involved in a “Can War” (part of a recycling initiative) and held a carnival to raise money for Haitian earthquake victims.

The *Class of 2010* had an excellent final year at DHS. In addition to their many academic and athletic accomplishments, seniors participated in Homecoming festivities in the fall, and organized the Senior-Senior Prom at the Darien Senior Center.

*Class of 2011* officers and advisors accomplished a repertoire of community services during 2009-2010, including selling DHS water bottles as part of a fundraiser, and holding a clothing and toy drive to support an out-of-state needy community. Most notably, the class assisted the non-profit organization, Soles4Souls, in collecting 530 pairs of shoes for distribution around the world.

*Class of 2012* activities included a coat drive to support the Stamford Goodwill center, and a DHS T-shirt and sweatshirt fundraiser.

During the year, the *Class of 2013* worked with World Water Relief, an organization that provided clean water purification systems to the people of Haiti after the earthquake. As part of this initiative, DHS water bottles were sold at school events and throughout the Darien community.

*Current*, DHS’s literary magazine, had a very productive year. A staff of twenty students met weekly to plan creative-writing-centered events and to craft the latest issue of the magazine. Many year-long advertising blitzes resulted, from regular ads appearing in the pages of *Neirad*, to promotional spots on Blue Wave News, to the magazine’s first-ever online blog, which was used to promote the magazine and showcase original student writing and music. The first half of the year featured three well-attended events: Slam-Tober, Prose Before Bros, and the Spring Slam Jam, at which more than 100 students read original work. The second half of the year focused on the creation of the 2010 edition of *Current*, which consisted of 40 original poems and three prose pieces written by DHS students. *Current* staff also collaborated with students from Stamford’s Westhill High School, attended an evening poetry workshop at DHS, and sponsored a concert at Westhill entitled “Unity Creates Strength: Love, Hope, Music.” Proceeds

from the concert were used to support relief efforts in Haiti and Chile.

In June, the 2010 edition of *Dariannus* was published to great acclaim. After winning a national award for the 2009 cover, the book’s artistic standards remained high, and it was chosen as a nation-wide model for Lifetouch Publishing. Sufficient revenue was received to continue the scholarship award presented to a graduating senior from the *Dariannus* staff.

The *Debate Team* attended six regular season tournaments and the state championship tournament. DHS hosted a tournament in March and will host another tournament in March 2011. The main goal of the team is to elevate the quality of debate through more rigorous practice and requirements for keeping up with current events.

The *Eco-citizens Club* was established in 2009 with the mission of promoting sustainability both locally and globally. Activities included: participation in “International Day of Climate Action” sponsored by 350.org; the 40th annual Earth Day celebration; water bottle recycling campaign; fundraisers to support preservation of rainforests by Conservational International; and collaboration with the Darien Land Trust with regard to monitoring Noroton River levels and the Dunlop Woods cleanup. The club website is [www.ecocitizensdhs.wordpress.com](http://www.ecocitizensdhs.wordpress.com)

The *Free Thinkers Club* met weekly to discuss controversial and philosophical topics, such as the nature of reality, monogamy and environmentalism.

The *Future Problem Solving (FPS) Club* engaged students in creative problem-solving and encouraged students to develop a vision for the future. FPS featured curricular and co-curricular competitive,







as well as non-competitive, activities. This year’s team of novices worked on learning the rules and skills necessary to compete successfully in next spring’s FPS Bowl.

The *Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)* engaged students in a number of activities, including a Valentine’s Day flower, candy and valentine sale (the proceeds of which were used to help defer expenses for the Day of Silence); attendance at the “True Colors” conference at the University of Connecticut, where DHS students joined several thousand attendees at various workshops designed to educate and support young people; the Day of Silence; and a social event at the Depot with GSA members from several area school districts.

The *Junior Engineering and Technical Society (JETS) Team* participated in the 2010 TEAMS competition at the University of New Haven – an intense, four-hour-long scientific, engineering, and mathematical problem-solving test. The DHS team placed fourth in Connecticut in its division, which is based on the enrollment of the senior class. The team’s performance enabled them to qualify for the national competition. The Darien JETS finished in an impressive 28th place out of the teams that qualified throughout the nation.

The *National Honor Society (NHS)* inducted more than 50 new members. NHS members provided more than 3,600 hours of volunteer service to the high school and a number of community groups, including Person-to-Person, Stepping Stones Children’s Museum, Post 53, St. Luke’s Life Works, Red Cross Safe-Rides, several religious organizations, the Darien Historical Society, homeless shelters, YMCA, and the Boy Scouts. Notable acts of service performed by students included the baking of 300 pies to raise money for China Care, and teaching a person afflicted with dementia how to use a computer in order to

write her autobiography.

*Neirad* received several top national awards. *Neirad Enilno*, the new online platform, received a Silver Crown Award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and a first place award from New England Scholastic Press Association (NESPA). The newspaper received an International First Place Award from Quill & Scroll and a First Place with Special Merit award from the American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA) for being an “outstanding overall example of a scholastic publication in format, content and presentation.” With regard to individual awards, three seniors and three juniors were selected for the National Scholastic Press Association Honor Roll. A sophomore was named the national first-place winner in the American Society of Newspaper Editors/Quill and Scroll 2010 International Writing and Photo Contest. Several other students received individual awards of Special Merit from NESPA, and three students received awards from the Connecticut Daily Newspaper Association.

The *Ski and Snowboard Club*, composed of approximately 30 students, participated in several trips this year, one to Okemo and the other to Mt. Snow. The trip to Stratton and the “overnight trip” were cancelled due to weather and the economy.

Activities of the *Support Our Soldiers (SOS) Club* focused on supporting soldiers currently serving in the military and honoring past veterans. This year’s highlight was the club’s preparation for DHS’s first Veterans’ Day activities. Students participated in the placement of more than 600 flags around the school grounds, and served as ambassadors for visiting veterans speaking at DHS. In mid-December, club members once again launched an extensive letter-writing campaign for the holidays. In May, another

letter-writing campaign was launched to express gratitude to World War II veterans for their service. For the first time, many DHS departments participated and letters were written in different languages, thanks to the assistance of the foreign language department. SOS also ran a fundraising drive to support the Spring Grove Cemetery “Veterans’ Memorial Flagpole” revitalization project, and a collection drive for toiletries, CDs, etc. through Adopt-A-Battalion for soldiers in Afghanistan. Club members also helped prepare for DHS’s first visit by “Wreaths Across America.”

*Theatre 308* had a very successful year. Attendance at weekly meetings/training sessions averaged about 40+ students, and this year 308 student officers continued to run an “Open Mic Night,” a monthly fundraiser held at The Depot. In the fall, Theatre 308 produced and performed *The Curious Savage*, a light-hearted, but thought-provoking comedy. More than 100 students participated in the production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, a play performed by Theatre 308 nearly 20 years ago. Several former Theatre 308 members, some of whom have made their careers in theatre, spoke to the cast prior to opening night.

Theatre 308’s third largest event was the Student Pros (Productions), which were held in the Little Theatre in May. Chosen via an application process, eight student-directors were given the go-ahead to produce a short piece of theatre or other type of performance. This year’s entries included short one-acts, several original scripts, and two original dance pieces. The entire event was student produced and directed.

Other Theatre 308 activities included: field trips to area theatres, participation in the Student Activities Fair and the Arts Festival, a variety of fundraising events

and guest speakers, Theatre 308 clean-up day, and an end-of-the-year picnic. In addition, a chamber-style performance of several musical numbers from Fiddler was performed at a special luncheon hosted by the Darien Arts Council in honor of Darien’s senior citizens. In May, 11 outgoing Theatre 308 seniors received theatre-related honors at the annual DHS Awards ceremony.

## Building Department

The Darien Building Department is comprised of the building official, an assistant building official, an office administrator, a secretary and a part-time building official.

Building activity in Darien increased slightly in fiscal 2009-2010, although estimated construction values declined. The estimated value of construction represented by the 619 building permits issued for residential, commercial and miscellaneous activities totaled \$87,759,475.

Fees collected, including miscellaneous fees, totaled \$994,199.

The estimated average construction value for new homes built in Darien in 2009-2010 was \$1,225,000 compared to \$1,101,000 for fiscal 2008-2009. There were 18 dwellings demolished during the fiscal year, and 18 new dwellings were built. Darien real estate continues to be very much in demand. With no open land available, demolition of existing dwellings will increase as land values continue to exceed dwelling values.

During 2009-2010, the Building Department issued 597 electrical permits, 543 heating/ventilation/air-conditioning permits, 248 plumbing permits, 220 certificates of occupancy, 257 certificates of compliance, and five fair permits. Fiscal 2009-2010 also saw the opening of the new Whole Foods, a building that was issued a certificate of occupancy in April. The new office building project at 17 Old Kings Highway South broke ground in the spring and has started to progress swiftly. Golden Realty, owners of Stop & Shop, finished a complete interior renovation of the facility and repaired the parking area.



Darien Building Department 2009 - 2010

Number of Permits Issued			Estimated Construction Value	
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2008-2009	2009 -2010
New Dwellings	25	18	27,525,000	22,590,000
Residential Add & alter	282	313	38,765,000	43,027,000
Commercial	40	62	24,787,000	18,052,475
All others	208	226	6,970,000	4,090,000
TOTALS:	555	619	\$98,047,000	\$87,759,475



## Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters

The stewardship of Darien’s most valuable natural resource – its coastal waters – is the ongoing responsibility of the Darien Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters, which advises the board on complex coastal water issues.

There were six Advisory Commission meetings in 2009-2010, as well as meetings between members of the Commission, local officials and local boating organizations. Commission members also attended meetings with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Boating Division Advisory Council, the Connecticut DEP’s Office of Long Island Sound, the EPA Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee, the Connecticut Harbor Management Association, the Connecticut Bureau of Aquaculture, and the Long Island Sound Councils. In addition, the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters was in regular contact with boaters in neighboring shorefront towns on several issues.

**Managing Darien’s Coastal Resources:** The Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters has developed a summary of its role as a steward of Darien’s coastal resources. This process began with the adoption of a new Commission resolution by the Board of Selectmen, which was followed by RTM and Connecticut DEP approval of updated harbor ordinances in September 2009. With those foundations, the Commission has been developing an overall plan for managing Darien’s coastal resources.

**Boating Issues:** As part of the Advisory Commission’s support of Darien boating, members began reviewing mooring specifications after several boats broke loose in storms. New Connecticut DEP regulations on boat bottom cleaning (both in the water and after hauling) are being studied by the Commission and other

boating organizations. The disturbance of shore birds by water skiers in Holly Pond was addressed with the marine police. Members of the Commission continue to be involved in the development of safe boating education in concert with the Connecticut DEP’s Boating Division.

**Harbor Issues:** The Darien Harbor channel was last dredged in 2001. Accordingly, the Commission is monitoring changes in the harbor as a result of silting. The Commission is also working with outside organizations (such as the Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee and the Connecticut Harbor Management Association) to keep disposal sites open in the sound, develop alternative disposal methods, and possibly seek government funding for small, recreational harbors such as Darien’s. Rafting of more than three boats (an ordinance violation) remains an issue, particularly in Ziegler’s Cove. The Commission reviewed several new pier applications.

**Shellfish Issues:** Scott’s Cove remains closed to recreational shell fishing due to water quality problems. Ziegler’s Cove also remains closed to recreational shell fishing during the summer. The Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters and the Darien Health Department are working with the Connecticut Bureau of Aquaculture to resolve this impasse. In concert with the State of Connecticut, a new map of Darien’s shellfish beds off of Noroton Bay has been developed and will be submitted to the Town Clerk’s Office, superseding the map currently on file. The new map should also help determine the actual water boundary with Stamford. Finally, the need for a commercial shellfish permit process has required study by the Advisory Commission, the results of which will inform recommendations made to the Board of Selectmen.



## The Depot

In 1989 a group of Darien parents and high school students saved a historic train station slated for demolition. Starting with only a dream, they created the Depot, a drug- and alcohol-free teen center. Today, the Depot is overseen by an Adult Advisory Board and run by a Student Governing Board under the supervision of a fulltime program director and part-time staff. Also on board is a director of development and an office administrator. Together, the two boards form a coherent team. The adult board focuses primarily on fundraising, capital building projects and operations management. The student board is responsible for day-to-day programming, creating and enforcing the rules of conduct, and ongoing participation in community outreach. Many town organizations depend on the “Depot Kids” to help with their events and fundraisers.

Functions planned by students include theme dance parties; Band Nights; 8th grade afternoons; 4th/5th/6th grade parties; Wii competitions, Monday Night/ Study Night; Girls Night Out; “Open Mic” nights; IMPROV; fall, winter and spring sports Captain’s Dinner”; Pie-in the-Face” for Social Services; and many more. In addition, the Depot is home to Safe Rides; Kids in Crisis Youth Corps; YWCA-sponsored FunBusters/Life Skills; Mom & Pop Shop; Cop Shop; Global Girls; Depot Theater Group; Citizen Police Academy; and a new chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). Many students complete community service hours at the Depot, whether for

confirmation class, school or court-ordered. The Depot works hand-in-hand with the Kiwanis Club of Darien, Community Fund and Chamber of Commerce. The Depot is truly a community center for teens.

A valuable town asset, the Depot provides Darien teenagers with a supervised substance-free environment in which to socialize. The members of the Student Governing Board benefit from their unique roles and responsibilities, while the student population at-large benefits from the wide array of programming designed by their peers. The Depot is open five days a week to all Darien high school students, whether they attend public school, private school or are home schooled. For more information, go to: [dariendepot.org](http://dariendepot.org)

## Finance Department

The Finance Department once again received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. During fiscal 2009-2010, the department continued to work to improve operations and implement new financial standards as they are promulgated.

**Office of the Tax Collector:** The October 1, 2008 net Grand List collectible, after all lawful additions, deductions and corrections, totaled \$98,671,064.56. Collections amounted to \$97,948,335.31. Remaining uncollected at June 30, 2010 was \$722,729.25.

During fiscal 2009-2010, a total of \$655,197.10 in back taxes, \$128,439.78 in delinquent interest and \$2,276.00 in lien/ fees were collected. In June, liens were recorded on 85 properties with unpaid taxes.

Other collections received by the Tax Collector during the fiscal year were \$2,432,478.16 for sewer service charges and \$47,606.27 in delinquent interest and lien fees. In addition, sewer assessment contract collections totaled \$587,508.71 for assessment charges and \$7,046.25 in delinquent interest and lien fees.

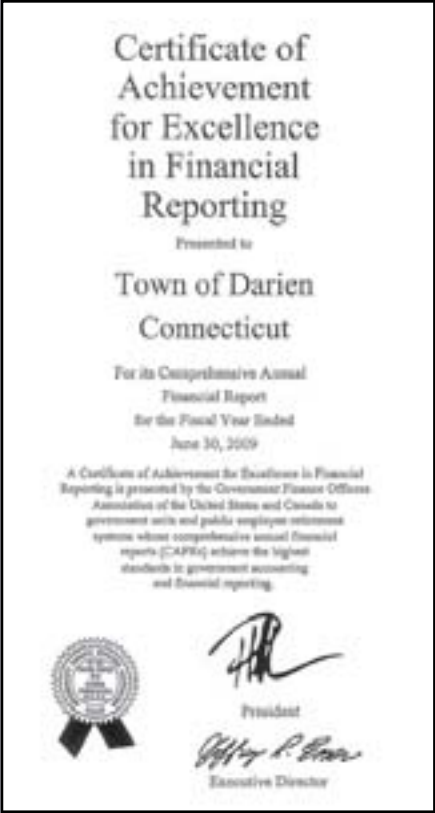
**Assessor’s Office:** The primary function of the Assessor’s Office is to set values on taxable and tax-exempt real estate and personal property for the purposes of establishing the annual Grand List, the basis for the collection of Darien’s local property tax. The Grand List is maintained daily, requiring the Assessor’s staff to have a strong background in fundamental appraisal methods in order to discover, define and defend the variety of taxable and tax-exempt properties in Darien. The Assessor’s Office maintains sales and permits information on 6,978 taxable real estate parcels, establishes annual market values and prorated assessments on 17,477 regular motor vehicles and 3,100 supplemental motor vehicles, and monitors the ever-changing assessment list of more than 1,078 business personal property taxpayers. Approximately 20-25 accounts are audited annually. The Assessor’s Office

(continued)

### Property Levies and Collections — Last Five Years

Fiscal Year	Tax Rate in Mills	Current Tax Collections	Percent of Taxes Collected
2005-06	13.02	81,797,020	99.50%
2006-07	13.40	84,973,764	99.40%
2007-08	13.87	89,314,483	99.40%
2008-09	14.55	95,203,121	99.20%
2009-10	11.37	97,948,335	99.30%





updates exemption of citizens who are eligible for tax relief due to their status as a veteran, an emergency service worker, an income-restricted senior citizen and/or as a result of being recognized as having a disability by the Veterans Administration or Social Security Administration.

The October 1, 2009 Grand List was officially approved and accepted by the town on January 30, 2010. There was a wide array of assessment challenges during the year due to the down-turn in the real estate market – just one year after the implementation of a state-mandated, five-year revaluation. Revaluation 2008 required all of Darien’s residential, commercial and tax-exempt real estate to be reappraised using the income, market and cost approaches to value. The challenge for the Office of the Tax Collector and the Assessor’s Office was to articulate the fact that the base year of value was exclusively October 1, 2008. The next revaluation is scheduled for October 1, 2013.

Town of Darien – Net Grand List Comparison

The October 1, 2009 Net Grand List reflects a 70% assessed value of \$8,753,256,485, an increase of \$54,810,011 over last year’s Net Grand List. The 2009 Net Grand List is subject to the actions of the Board of Assessment Appeals. The following is a comparison between the October 1, 2008 Grand List and the October 1, 2009 Grand List:

Category	2008	2009	% Change
Real Estate	\$8,373,304,410	\$8,403,258,000	\$29,953,590
Motor Vehicle	\$204,330,140	\$201,217,680	\$-3,112,460
Personal Property	\$122,304,674	\$150,312,195	\$28,007,521
Gross Total	\$8,699,939,224	\$8,754,787,875	\$54,848,651
(-)Exemptions	\$-1,492,750	\$-1,531,390	
Net Grand List	\$8,698,446,474	\$8,753,256,485	\$54,810,011

**General Observations on the October 1, 2009 Grand List:**  
**Real Estate:** The year after the state-mandated, five-year revaluation saw the Assessor’s Office review more than 500 building permits, which resulted in changes to 376 residential and commercial parcels. Many of the changes were due to parcels that were “works in progress” during the assessment date of October 1, 2008 and had received prorated incremental assessments between October 1, 2008 and October 1, 2009. The permit activity the Assessor’s Office saw during the 2008 calendar year complements the residential and commercial growth to Darien’s tax base. The taxable parcel count of Darien real estate went from 6,986 to 6978, a reduction of eight parcels due to several being assembled with an adjoining property and several becoming land within the land trust and/or tax exempt.  
**Motor Vehicles:** Darien has total of 17,474 motor vehicles on the 2009 Grand List, a decrease of 61 vehicles from last year. The assessed value of these vehicles decreased by \$3,112,460.  
**Personal Property:** Darien has more than 1,100 business personal accounts with an assessed value increase of \$ 28,000,000. The largest portion of the increase reflects significant infrastructure upgrades made by Northeast Utilities/CLP, who filed a declaration of assessment of just more than \$84,000,000.

The Board of Assessment Appeals completed its March hearings on schedule with a relatively small number of taxpayers questioning their assessments. The Assessor’s Office continues to work closely with the Town Planner’s Office and Building Department using the Cityview database and ESRI mapping systems, tools that provide added confidence with regard to the updating of annual assessments. Highlights of the past year included the updating of the Walsh administrative billing software and modifications of the Office’s on-line assessment database, which is reflected in the Assessor’s section of the Town of Darien’s website.

During fiscal 2009-2010, the Assessor’s Office notified more than 200 households with taxpayers over the age of 65 of their potential eligibility for Darien’s local and state senior property tax relief program. Darien presently has fewer than 200 households receiving tax relief due to limited income. The income guideline

for program eligibility is \$59,500 for a single applicant and \$66,300 for a married couple (including Social Security). To be considered for tax relief, applicants must include copies of their federal income tax forms.

Fire Marshal's Office

The Darien Fire Marshal’s Office, established in 1980 as a fulltime department, represents and works closely with Darien’s three volunteer fire departments: the Darien Fire Department, the Noroton Fire Department and the Noroton Heights Fire Department.

This Fire Marshal’s Office is responsible for the inspection of all buildings other than one- or two-family dwellings (except for upon complaint); fire investigations; plan review and construction inspections of all buildings other than one- or two-family homes; fire prevention education programs; permits for blasting and tank

removal; inspection and certification of hazardous material transport vehicles housed in Darien; inspection and certification of all day care centers, nursery schools, convalescent centers and liquor permit establishments; and other assorted duties. The Fire Marshal, Deputy Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector are certified by the State of Connecticut and mandated by statute to obtain 90 hours of educational training every three years in order to maintain certification.

Activities undertaken by the Fire Marshal’s Office in fiscal 2009-2010 included:

- Completion of inspection-related services for several renovation and new construction projects in the downtown area.
- Working closely on the Whole Foods project to ensure its timely opening. The project entailed significant blasting on the site and for the realignment of the Exit 11 ramp.
- Working closely with the Aquarion Water Company and The Country Club of Darien on extending the water main on Brookside Road to the back side of

the club in order to provide onsite water/ fire protection for the new Environmental Care Facility. In addition, fire hydrants were provided further up Brookside Road for improved fire protection and reduced insurance rates for the residents in the area.

Investigations undertaken during the year included:

- A bedroom fire in a residence on Hoyt Street.
- An electrical fire at Bertucci’s Restaurant.
- Two residential kitchen fires.
- A small roof fire at Whole Foods.
- Diesel fuel in Darien Harbor.

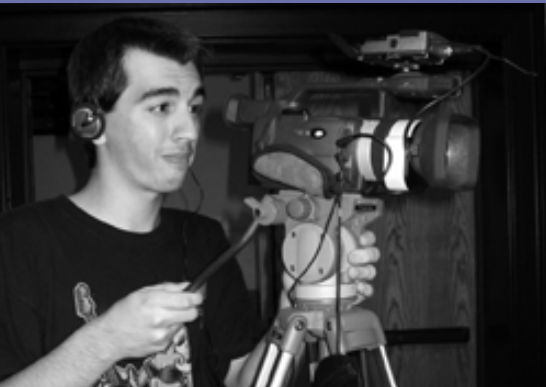
During the fiscal year, the Fire Marshal’s Office provided inspections associated with a number of construction projects, including: Country Club of Darien Environmental Care Facility, Country Club of Darien employee housing, Chase Bank, Whole Foods, Darien Professional Building (Noroton Ave.), Planet Pizza, Stop and Shop renovation and conversion from Shaw’s, Hollow Tree Ridge Road I-95

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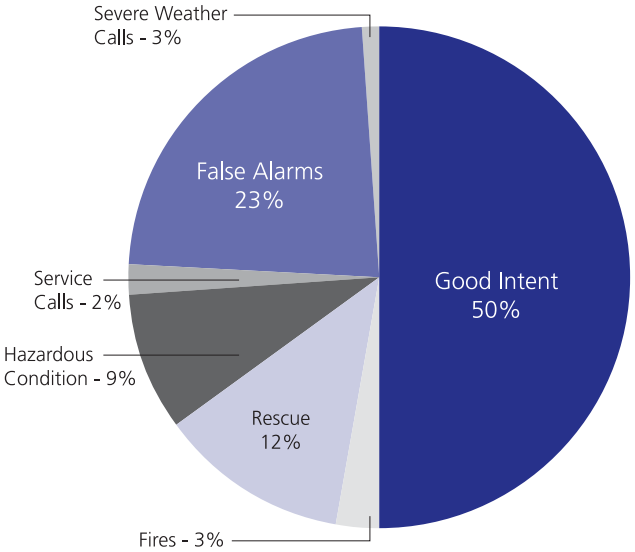
Darien Fire Marshal's Office Activity			
Activity	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Blasting permits issued	7	4	6
Liquor permits signed and certified	35	35	36
Fuel oil and L.P. gas tank permits issued	97	45	48
Blasting site inspections	126	94	102
Tank inspections	59	23	29
Fire reports filed with the State Fire Marshal	1189	1245	1248
Meetings/interactions with non-town personnel	1079	1216	1241
Public fire education programs	34	34	34
Number of pre-school children educated	811	807	809
Day care centers inspected and certified	7	7	7
Fuel oil trucks inspected and certified	6	6	6
Fireworks shows inspected and overseen	2	3	2
Guest houses inspected for operational permits	3	3	3
Amusement rides and fairs inspected	2	3	3
Residential fires investigated	7	12	3
Commercial fires investigated	3	6	2
False alarm bills	256	240	169
Fire code inspections	407	401	367
Bonfire permits issued	N/A	15	12







# Types of Calls Fiscal Year 2010



Overpass standpipe system, Jos. A. Banks, The Goose, Chipotle, Burgers, Shakes, and Fries, Scena Wine Bar, Garden Homes (397 Post Road), 17 Old Kings Highway South, Person to Person, Stop and Shop renovation (Heights Road).

## Special Inspections/Events

- The July fireworks show for Woodway Country Club required the Fire Marshal’s Office to be on site from the arrival of fireworks until cleanup; a full inspection of the show’s set-up was undertaken to ensure full compliance with fire safety regulations.
- Fireworks show for an October wedding at Woodway Country Club.
- The Hindley Happening, Darien Days Carnival, and Tokeneke School Big Pumpkin Fair were all inspected. All rides were checked for proper installation and operation.
- Inspections were made at the high school and middle school plays, the Post 53 Food Fair, the Darien High School Post Prom Party, the Children’s Aid Tag Sale at Middlesex School, and the Ox Ridge Horse Show.

## Public Education Programs

- 809 nursery school children were taught not to be afraid of a firefighter in full turnout gear, how to “stop, drop and roll” if their clothing catches fire, how

to escape a fire by crawling under smoke, and the proper reasons for calling 9-1-1.

- Participants in the Mom’s Morning-In program for the DCA were presented with a fire prevention program.
- Sixty special needs children in the Hindley School ELS program were taught what a firefighter looks like in full firefighting gear and how to crawl under smoke in the event they are ever trapped in a fire.

# Government Access Television: TV79

Founded in November 2006, TV79, — Darien’s government television station — provides live and taped coverage of public meetings, public affairs and community events. Available to Cablevision subscribers, the station is staffed by volunteer and paid camera operators and producers headed up by TV79’s co-founders: General Manager David Dever and Program Director Jim Cameron.

Operating under guidelines approved by the Board of Selectmen, TV79 offers C-Span style “gavel to gavel” coverage of meetings without commentary. The station, which broadcasts from facilities in Town Hall, carries more than 400 hours of original programming each year, airing

# TV•79 Darien

around-the-clock, seven days a week. Carried on a regular basis are meetings of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Environmental Protection Commission, Representative Town Meeting, Board of Education, Monuments & Ceremonies Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission.

In addition, TV79 produces “Inside Town Hall,” a program featuring interviews with elected/appointed officials and town employees who discuss their work in order to help citizens better understand town government. TV79 also provides tape-delayed coverage of such town events as the Memorial Day Parade and services, The Post 53 Food Fair, “Darien Stroll” holiday celebrations, and two summertime favorites, “Sidewalk Sales” and the July 4th “Push – Pull Parade.”

TV79 currently has more than 600 subscribers to its free weekly e-mail program guide. Those interested in joining the e-mail list should send their e-mail address to the station.

The operation of TV79 is overseen by the Darien Government Town TV Advisory Committee, members of which are appointed by the Board of Selectmen. TV79 is always seeking volunteers. For more information, contact [channel79@darienct.gov](mailto:channel79@darienct.gov)

# Harbor Master

The 2009-2010 boating season saw a transition to a new Harbor Master when Bob Price retired after more than 20 years of dedicated service to the Darien boating community.

The number of moorings in Darien waters remained somewhat steady from the previous year with several new moorings replacing existing ones and some new moorings added during the latter part of the season.

## Moorings by Locations

Darien Harbor	188
Noroton Bay Harbor	35
Zeigler’s Cove	34
Scott’s Cove /Beach Area	15
Brushy Isle	4
Lateral Owners	16
Total	292

Copies of the State of Connecticut Boat Owners Guide continued to be provided to the Darien Boat Club, the Noroton Yacht Club and to all new mooring users. Master lists of all mooring owners were also provided to the Darien Police Department and Parks and Recreation Department.

The process to bring mooring registration online was begun with the physical surveying of the larger harbors in town, a project that will continue over the next few years. It is the goal of the Harbor Master to eventually eliminate the “paper” process and, in doing so, allow for a faster renewal process and the generation of more accurate information.

All-in-all, 2009-2010 was another great boating season with the exception of a late September storm, which saw several boats damaged when mooring lines were lost during the height of the storm. All mooring owners are reminded that they are responsible for ensuring that their mooring hardware is inspected every three years and that their boats are tethered correctly to withstand severe weather and storms. Boat owners are responsible for any damage if their boat breaks off their mooring, a good reason for boat insurance.

Continued thanks are in order to the Darien Boat Club and the Noroton Yacht

Club for their support, especially during the transition to the new Harbor Master, Thomas Bell.

# Health Department

Fiscal 2009-2010 marked the first complete year the Darien Health Department operated with a full-time director. The staff looks forward to another milestone in the coming year: the implementation of a “digital health department” that will increase staff efficiency, enable residents to view restaurant inspection reports on-line, and allow for remote access to records. Highlights of a very busy year include:

**Lyme Disease and Ticks:** The Darien Health Department encourages residents to submit ticks they find on themselves or other family members to determine whether the tick contains the causative agent of Lyme disease and, if so, what medical treatment might be required. Ticks collected at the Health Department are sent to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for testing. In 2009-2010, 166 suspected ticks were submitted, 65 were tested and 24 were found to be positive. Ticks that carry Lyme disease and contain human blood are the only ones tested. The percentage of positive ticks found in Darien is consistent with what is typically found in neighboring communities.

**Rabies:** The Department, in concert with Animal Control, submits animals for testing at the Connecticut Department of Health Laboratory if rabies is suspected. During the past year, 18 animals were submitted; one tested positive for rabies. It is important that individuals exposed to rabies seek immediate medical attention since rapid treatment is completely effective in preventing what can be a fatal illness.

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**Flu Vaccination Clinics:** In response to the emergence of the H1N1 swine flu, the Health Department held 18 clinics and administered 1,349 doses of H1N1 swine flu vaccine. In addition, 400 regular seasonal flu shots were administered. Department staff effectively managed the challenge associated with the shortage of the H1N1 vaccine by scheduling vaccinations by appointment and adding clinics as the vaccine supply increased. The understanding and cooperation from the public, town departments and the superintendent of schools played a major role in the success of the vaccination program.

**Public Health and Emergency Preparedness:** During 2009-2010, a detailed public health component of Darien's Emergency Preparedness Plan was completed. A key part of the plan involved the finalization of a "memorandum of understanding" with the Board of Education that allows for Darien High School to be used as the site of mass inoculations or vaccinations, if required.

**Public Beaches:** In the summer of 2008, Darien's two public beaches, Weed and Pear Tree Point, were frequently closed to swimming due to elevated bacteria levels. As a result, this year the Health Department increased the frequency of testing and expanded the areas tested in an effort to determine the source of the contamination. Water samples were collected for 31 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day. It was found that the water quality of Long Island Sound continually met EPA standards for bathing waters, regardless of whether it was high or low tide. A key finding was that upstream water quality appeared to be a contributing factor to elevated bacteria levels, especially after precipitation. Consequently, the existing policy of "preemptive" closure of beaches after rain remains in effect. The Health Department website and the

telephone HOTLINE provide information regarding the status of Darien beaches.

Darien's water testing program was supported in part through the Darien High School intern program. The department's assigned intern, a high school senior, collected samples and conducted laboratory testing at the Stamford Health Department laboratory (under the supervision of laboratory staff). The comprehensive water testing program will continue to include the use of high school interns. Going forward, the focus will be on gaining a better understanding of upstream water quality and its effect on Darien beaches.

**Food Service:** 2009-2010 saw the implementation of the food service establishment "RATINGS" program, under which every "Class 3" or "Class 4" food service facility has to post a certificate summarizing conditions noted at the time of inspection. The certificate, which is issued in conjunction with every inspection the Health Department performs, must be posted in a visible location. This unique program is intended to inform the public about observed conditions and food handling practices within the establishment.

During the past year the Health Department also implemented an innovative "Food Handler Training Program" – a half-day class designed to provide basic food safety guidance to individuals who work in food preparation and service in Darien. A total of 50 people participated in the program.

In 2009-2010, ten new food-service facilities opened after plan reviews and pre-opening inspections were completed by the Health Department. Currently, there are 114 permitted facilities in Darien, ranging from elegant banquet facilities to seasonal "snack bars" and "temporary" events, all of which are inspected and permitted. During

the past year, the department conducted 370 inspections of these facilities.

**Septic Systems and Private Wells:** A significant portion of properties in Darien have on-site waste water disposal and potable water systems. To ensure that these systems adequately protect ground and surface water, the Health Department follows a detailed plan review and inspection process whenever homes are built, remodeled or reconstructed. In the past year, the Health Department: performed soil test observations at 32 sites; issued 15 septic system repair permits and six new septic system permits; undertook 55 building plan reviews; evaluated nine septic systems for house teardowns and replacements; and issued 19 well drilling permits (including geothermal wells).

**Recreational Shellfishing:** The Darien Health Department issued 48 annual permits for recreational shellfishing in 2009-2010. The Health Department website and telephone HOTLINE provide information on shellfish bed closures due to contaminated waters or excessive precipitation.

**Public Pools:** There are 18 "public pools" in Darien, all of which are inspected and permitted by the Health Department. A key component of the permit program requires that someone knowledgeable in pool water chemistry and filtration is available at each public pool at all times.

**Communicable Disease:** Reports from doctors' offices and laboratories are submitted to the Darien health director so follow-ups can be conducted as needed. This process helps the Health Department evaluate reportable disease trends that may be occurring in the community.

**Ordinance and Regulation Review:** During 2009-2010, Health Department ordinances relating to food service

facilities, septic system plan review and approvals, well water permits, public pool operation, and hair and nail salons were repealed and replaced with new and updated regulations in order to bring Darien into compliance with all Connecticut Public Health Code requirements. New regulations also were adopted for lead poisoning prevention. All regulations can now be found on the Health Department website.

**Website:** Over the last year, the Health Department website was revised and updated to better serve Darien residents. The website houses information regarding health issues, events and clinics sponsored by the department, as well as permit application forms. Restaurant inspection reports soon will be available for viewing.

## Housing Authority

The Darien Housing Authority (DHA) owns and operates two public housing facilities in Darien: Allen-O'Neill Homes and Old Town Hall Houses. Oversight of the facilities is provided by the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA).

**Allen-O'Neill Homes:** Established in 1952 under Connecticut's Moderate Rental Program, Allen-O'Neill Homes consists of 41 single-family homes and a 12-unit apartment building situated on 12 acres in Noroton Heights. The Housing Authority, in order to maintain a healthy and safe environment for its current residents, faces increasing maintenance costs for the upkeep and repair of the aging Allen-O'Neill Homes facility. In 2009-2010, extensive plumbing repairs and excavation were undertaken as a result of sewer main stoppages. In addition, the boilers at the apartment building required extensive repair and parts replacement, and the hot water heaters required replacement. Tree work, repairs associated with storm damage, and ongoing appliance and

window replacements also required substantial expenditures.

The Housing Authority continued to move ahead on the redevelopment of the Allen-O'Neill site. Site plans, approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission in March 2009, call for the demolition of 40 existing structures and the construction of 26 new buildings, which will provide 106 new affordable rental housing units. In April 2010, the Darien Housing Authority submitted an application to the CHFA and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for low-income housing tax credits. DHA received a commitment for funding from DECD, contingent upon the allocation of tax credits. CHFA gave the project a favorable ranking, but due to the decrease in tax credit availability, the Housing Authority was not awarded an allocation for this year. An application will be resubmitted in 2011.

**Old Town Hall Houses:** Built in 1988 on the former site of the Darien Town Hall (719 Post Road), Old Town Hall Houses operates under Connecticut's Elderly Housing Program and consists of 30 rental units (efficiency and one-bedroom apartments). It is the only affordable rental community in Darien dedicated to low-income seniors and disabled persons.

The Darien Housing Authority maintains a safe and friendly environment for its elderly and disabled residents with a continuing focus on upgrades and the rehabilitation of the Old Town Hall Houses facility, now in its 22nd year of operation. In 2009-2010, the Housing Authority completed interior renovations to eight of the 30 apartment units. Renovations included upgrading kitchens and bathrooms, flooring, and the replacement of appliances, lighting fixtures, thermostats and heat registers to improve energy efficiency. A new fire alarm system was

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installed, as was updated emergency lighting in the Community Room. Ongoing maintenance of the landscaped central courtyard preserves the lovely outdoor setting enjoyed by residents.

During 2009-2010, the Housing Authority also partnered with the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission to repair and refurbish the monument and flagpole at 719 Post Road. The monument and flagpole honor servicemen from Darien who lost their lives in World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Operating revenues for Allen-O'Neill Homes and Old Town Hall Houses are generated solely from rents that are collected. These funds cover all of the Housing Authority's operating and administrative expenses. The DHA does not receive state or federal subsidies. The Town of Darien receives State of Connecticut PILOT funding in lieu of real property taxes for Allen-O'Neill Homes. Real property and sewer taxes for Old Town Hall Houses have been waived by the town.

Tenants of Allen-O'Neill Homes and Old Town Hall Houses are subject to maximum income limits, which are published annually by HUD. Rents are calculated as a percentage of income in accordance with program regulations.

There are long waiting lists for Allen-O'Neill Homes and Old Town Hall Houses. As a result, both lists remain closed until further notice. The Housing Authority also administers the waiting list for Clock Hill Homes, the town-sponsored affordable 30-unit condominium property on Gideon Lane. Built in 1996, these units are owner-occupied and subject to resale restrictions. There are currently 60 applicants on the waiting list; there were no property transfers during 2009-2010.

## Information Technology

Darien's Information Technology (IT) Department enjoyed another successful year delivering unsurpassed service to all end users in the community. Because the IT Department is shared with the Board of Education, the entire town benefits from the array of skills IT has to offer – including network security, website development and phone system design. During 2009-2010, IT focused on the creation of a solid infrastructure that enabled a greater number of services to be available to the public, while maintaining efficiency within Town Hall – an ongoing mission.

Departmental goals were accomplished with solid hardware upgrades and the careful implementation of new systems. The Police Department was a major focus of IT's efforts during the year. Specifically, a new IP telephony system was implemented for the police, an initiative that saved money in support costs and through a reduction in phone lines. The new phone system also eased management needs, while creating a more flexible telecommunication system that is now incorporated with all other phone systems in town. Engineers also spent many hours carefully planning the topology of the new Police Department building scheduled for construction in 2011. In addition, the town tax system received a much-needed hardware and software upgrade and the cooling system in Darien's data center was upgraded, resulting in lower cooling costs. Finally, the infrastructure of the Senior Center was merged into the town's infrastructure, an initiative that realized savings in data and voice services.

These improvements support the various software packages that help run Town Hall operations:

- MUNIS – the financial backbone of Town Hall and the Board of Education.
- Class – Parks and Recreation's core system, which is available to the public

- on the Internet, complete with e-commerce capabilities.
- Firehouse – the core system for Darien's fire departments.
- Cott systems – the core system used by the Town Clerk to manage public records.
- Univers – the tax system for assessing properties.
- Walsh – the tax system for collecting tax bills.
- Cityview – the system that maintains the building process for the Building Department and Planning and Zoning.
- ESRI- the GIS mapping system used by Planning and Zoning; ESRI is beginning to feed information to other systems, creating a standard in Town Hall.
- Visionair – the core system the Police Department uses for record management, dispatch and mobile data capabilities.
- Parktech – the core system for managing parking permits and tickets.
- Various Access databases that service Public Works, the Town Clerk's Office, and the Health Department.

## Darien Library

Fiscal 2009-2010 marked the first full year of operation for the new Darien Library, which opened to national acclaim on January 10, 2009. The project, which was funded with \$24 million in private donations, the resources of the Friends of Darien Library, and the proceeds of the sale of the former library building, marks a high point in the extraordinarily successful public-private partnership between the Town of Darien and the trustees and Friends of Darien Library.

Darien Library is always busy; in fact, it has led the state of Connecticut in circulation and visits per capita during each of the past seven years. Circulation continued to increase during the past year while visits to the Library and program participation increased significantly in line with the greater range of resources in the new building.

As of June 30, 2010, 19,559 Darien residents (approximately 98% of the community) held an active library card. Library visits for the year totaled 431,105 and circulation totaled 786,333 items. Attendance at Adult Library programs, meetings, and classes was 44,884. At year end, the Library maintained a collection of 115,034 books, 8,191 books on CD and downloadable as an MP3, 13,464 DVDs, 5,679 CDs, and 347 magazine and newspaper subscriptions. Sixty-four PCs were available for patron use. During the year, 87,615 reference questions were answered (in person and via phone, fax, mail, e-mail, and Instant Message); there were 96,114 logins on the Library's computers.

Darien Library holds a national reputation for the quality and range of its customer service model. The Library's staff is widely regarded as one of the finest in the nation, and the services Darien Library provides to the community have become a model for many other libraries. Since national rankings began in 1999, Darien Library consistently has been ranked one of the top ten in the country for its size. The Hennen American Public Library Rating Index ranked Darien Library seventh in the nation and first in Connecticut in a report covering 2007-2008, making it one of the top 100 libraries in the United States. Darien Library has placed in the top ten in its population group for eight consecutive years. Also, *Library Journal* ranked Darien Library as a five-star library in 2010, one of two top-ranked libraries in Connecticut. Within its budget category, Darien Library was the second-highest ranked library in the nation.

The relationship between the Town of Darien and the Library is founded on its unique private-public partnership. The Town funds the Library's operating expenses – including salaries and operating expenses – while the board of trustees of the Library oversees an annual fund drive

to buy books, movies, music, computers, magazines, books on CD, information resources, and programs. This arrangement allows the Library to anticipate and respond quickly to the needs of its many users and sets an enviable standard for quality of service and cost-effectiveness.

During 2009-2010, Library staff and trustees continued to offer and expand current services.

### Adult Programs

Adult programs included "Meet the Author" events (featuring David Baldacci, John Barricelli, Amy Bloom, Lee Child, Chris Cleve, Jonathan Eig, Chris Welles Feder, Julie Hersh, A.J. Jacobs, Michael Mauboussin, Lucinda Scala Quinn, Charlotte Smith, T.J. Stiles, and Judith Warner); several weekly film series (including a seven-week foreign film series and a four-week independent film series); Darien's second "One Book, One Community" town-wide reading program, "Monday at Seven" (a program for job seekers and networkers); a weekly book talk and fall/spring book discussion series; an adult summer reading program; a "Girls' Night Out" program; storytelling for adults; a short story discussion series; a classics discussion; a "One-Page Poetry Circle" program; an annual Shakespeare lecture; an annual poetry program; an annual master gardener program; art exhibits and receptions; and special programs on the college admission process, the environment, and programs to help organize one's home, life, and finances.

### Children's Library

During 2009-2010, Darien Children's Library continued its early literacy initiative, through which parents and caregivers are taught how to develop children's pre-literacy skills. The reorganization of the children's collection, a major undertaking, took place, resulting in two collections: a collection

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for kids who are reading on their own and a collection for pre-readers, a program that has been nationally-recognized for its innovation. The Children's Library includes a technology center for children and is the first public library in the country to have a Microsoft Surface tabletop computer. Darien Children's Library also offered new family and teacher orientations, as well as "21 Things for 21st Century Parents," a program designed to help parents learn how to use Web 2.0 technologies so that they can better navigate, support, guide, and parent confidently in the digital world.

During the year, children's programs included registered story-times and programs; drop-in programs; a summer reading program; participation in activities related to the "One Book, One Community" town-wide read; R.E.A.D. (a program that partners therapy dogs with kids to encourage reading and improve literacy skills); "Stories on the Spectrum" (customized story-time for families with children on the autism spectrum); "Dragon Club" (a Chinese language and culture program); "iKids" (through which children learn how to use creative Mac programs to make videos, music slideshows, etc.); "Little Clickers" (a unique collaborative computer class for preschoolers and their caregivers); "We've Got Game" (a weekly gaming program featuring gadgets like Nintendo DS, Wii, laptops, and traditional board games); book clubs; technology workshops; and a kids' advisory board. Attendance at all children's programs totaled 43,482 during fiscal 2009-2010. In addition to programs held at the Library, Darien librarians visited elementary school libraries and classrooms, as well as Darien pre-schools, to talk about books with students and teachers.

### Teen Services

For 2009-2010, attendance at the Darien Library's many teen programs totaled 2,793. Teen services programs included a "Teen Summer Reading" initiative; participation

in the "One Book, One Community" town-wide read; the first annual "Darien Library Teen Writing Competition"; the first annual "So You Think You Can Do Something" (a teen talent competition); "Teen Tech Camp" (a three-day series of technology classes); crafts; teen book club; a resume workshop; the "Chess Teen Titans" program; movies in the teen lounge; galley parties; study nights; podcasts; a writers group; videogames and videogame tournaments; an oral history project (a video project through which teens interview long-time members of the community to record their stories and memories); a trivia contest; "Juniors Helping Seniors" (teens helping adults learn computer skills); "Study Sesh" (a weekly study program); and a teen advisory board (TAB). During the year, Library staff visited Middlesex Middle School to talk to students and teachers about books and teen programs.

A major goal of Darien Library is to offer its users an opportunity to use the latest technology while providing training for those needing assistance. During 2009-2010, Darien Library patrons were able to borrow such new technology as the Nook™, Kindle 2™ and Kindle DX™, HD video recorders, and new MP3 players. In addition, 111 technology education classes were held for adults (with an emphasis on more advanced topics) children and teens, with a total attendance of more than 1,000. Twenty-nine one-on-one training and assistance sessions also were conducted, including sessions with senior citizens, many of whom are becoming active users of e-mail and word processing.

Darien Library is located at 1441 Post Road. Library hours are Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. More information is available at the Library's website, [darienlibrary.org](http://darienlibrary.org), and by calling 203-655-1234.

## Monuments and Ceremonies

By charter, the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission is authorized "to establish guidelines for the erection or installation of monuments, plaques, or memorials on public property." The Commission is charged with cataloguing and surveying public monuments, and identifying maintenance and upkeep needs. Members also "promote, organize, prepare and monitor public patriotic parades, public celebrations, anniversaries and special community events when requested by the Board of Selectmen." In short, the Commission encourages actions by individuals and organizations that will enhance Darien's image.

Highlights of Monuments and Ceremonies Commission activities undertaken during the past year include:

On July 18, 2009, the Commission helped sponsor a ceremony at which Darien World War II veterans were presented Public Service Awards by Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz. Following the ceremony, which was held at Darien High School, the Commission hosted a reception.

In commemoration of the tragedy of September 11, the Commission held a ceremony and placed a wreath and roses at the 9/11 Memorial, located on the lawn behind Middlesex Middle School. Attendees included town and state officials; representatives of the Darien Police and Fire Departments, as well as other first responders; 9/11 family members; and many local citizens. Michael Doyle, the grand marshal of the Memorial Day Parade, donated the wreaths and flowers, as he has done in the past.

The Darien Board of Selectmen declared October 20, 2009 as Philip Kraft Day and issued a proclamation "in recognition of Kraft's many years of dedication and service in the United States of America and to all its veterans and for being a friend who

will reach out a hand to anyone and let him know that everything will be ok."

On November 11, 2009, the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission conducted a Veteran's Day ceremony at Veteran's Circle at Town Hall. Because Darien public schools were in session on Veteran's Day, Channel 79 filmed and broadcast a live video stream of the ceremony into the schools. As usual, Commission members placed flags on the Noroton Avenue overpass, two of which were stolen – and quickly replaced by Phil Kraft and Dave Polett.

Once again, members of the Commission helped with the Wreaths Across America program, under which a national convoy passes through Darien on its journey to Arlington National Cemetery for the wreath laying. Darien's Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery is one of only three designated veteran's cemeteries in Connecticut, and the Commission helped place 468 wreaths there this past year. Darien VFW Post 6933 and the Masonic Club of Darien hosted a dinner for the entire wreath entourage on December 9, 2009. Prior to the dinner, the Worcester Wreath Company held a ceremony at the Veterans Circle. The following morning a ceremony was held at Darien High School to honor all those from Darien who have served in the armed forces. Student participation was outstanding.

Many years ago, the Commission sold Darien license plates and used the proceeds to purchase a display case for the entrance to Darien Town Hall. This year, the Darien Community Association used the display as part of its 86th anniversary celebration. Organizations interested in using the display case for an exhibit should contact the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission for an application.

On February 9, 2010 the Commission voted unanimously to approve, support and help coordinate a proposal for improvements

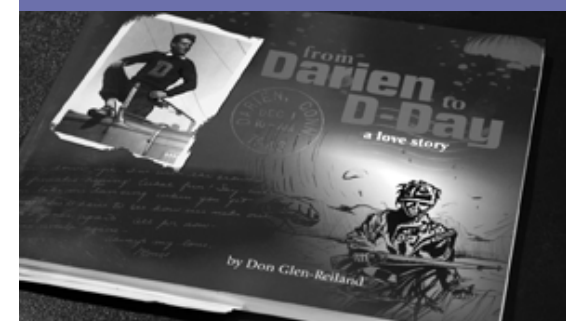
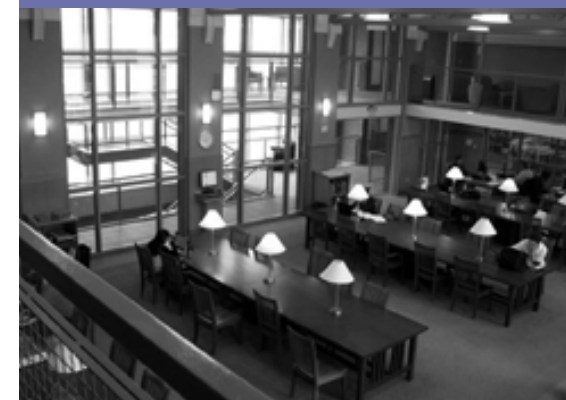
to the Soldier's Monument and flagpole in the Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery. Landscape architect Lesley Macaulay Kroll presented a comprehensive plan and noted that "this monument is culturally significant and a reminder of the town's rich history." Motorcycle Officer Court Isaac and other members of the Darien Police Department initiated the plan and asked for the Commission's help in raising public awareness of the project, the total cost of which is estimated at \$8,000. Several local businesses, individuals and organizations have contributed to the project fund to date; additional funds are needed to complete the project.

On April 13, 2010, the Commission once again approved an expenditure of \$850.00 for refurbishing the flagpole at the Darien Senior Housing facility on the Post Road. The Darien Housing Authority has provided \$700.00 for the flagpole refurbishment project.

Commission members successfully organized the Memorial Day Parade and the ceremony that followed at the Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery – a huge undertaking that requires coordination of activities with many other boards, organizations and individuals. This year, Darien High School senior, Michelle DeSoiza – the originator of "Support Our Soldiers" at DHS – was the Memorial Day speaker; veteran Walter E. Ericsson served as the grand marshal.

In order to ensure that the parade runs smoothly, the Commission obtains permits from the property owners of the staging area at Goodwives Shopping Center, and from Miller Motor Company, where the reviewing stand is held. During the past year, members of the Commission worked closely with the first selectman and the Air National Guard on the flyover, as well as with the Darien Police Department to

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ensure the safety of residents and parade participants.

Prior to every Memorial Day, a member of the Commission, Chick Scribner, spearheads the placement of flags by Darien Boy Scouts on the graves of veterans in Spring Grove Cemetery. Commission members, with the assistance of local veterans, remove the flags after Flag Day.

## Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the care, management, maintenance and control of twelve Town of Darien park facilities totaling approximately 209 acres. Darien parks feature active as well as passive play areas, play fields and courts, nature preserves, and swimming and boating areas. Parks and Recreation offers year-round recreational activities for children and adults of all ages, while also co-sponsoring special events.

In fiscal 2009-2010, the Parks and Recreation Department continued to meet increasing service demands from the community by evaluating and redefining department resources and utilizing technology. Public use of on-line services continues to grow and is a source for up-to-date program information. Program activity registrations and the purchase of beach park permits are available to the public via the Department's website – [www.darienct.gov/parkrec](http://www.darienct.gov/parkrec) – 24/7.

Registration for activities, programs and permits maintained strong levels. In fact, program participation increased during the year, largely the result of new and additional programs and more families staying home to participate in local activities – a trend that is anticipated to continue into 2011. Program highlights included children's fitness programs, Tiny Tots Soccer, and Adult Boot Camp Fitness.

Program revenue exceeded projections by more than 40%.

The demand for programs was met with such activities as swim lessons, tennis lessons, instructional basketball, indoor soccer, golf lessons, piano lessons, guitar lessons, soccer, baseball, tennis, paddle tennis camps, floor hockey, children's science programs, robotics, movie making, karate, paddle tennis lessons, school vacation activities, and cheerleading camps. All programs received favorable response. Once again, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Youth Commission co-sponsored two movies on the beach, one in June and one in September. Adults participated in drop-in volleyball and basketball, tennis, paddle tennis, golf, guitar lessons, safe boating classes, kick boxing, boot camp and other fitness programs, community gardens and concerts. The Department continued to co-sponsor activities such as the Darien Junior Sailing Program, as well as other events in cooperation with the Youth Commission.

Parks and Recreation continues to seek alternative ways to provide and improve facilities. The following public/private cooperative projects and/or donations were initiated or completed during fiscal 2009-2010:

- Playground at Weed Beach: Playground by the Sound fund-raising committee.
- Memorial tree planting in Frate Park for Anthony Frate: Jeffrey Frate and The Growing Concern, Chris McGoldrick
- Memorial tree planting at Cherry Park for Drew Savato: Mike Cotta of Marshal Cotta Tree
- Topdressing material, Casey Field: Darien Soccer Association
- Sod for Holahan Field: Darien Babe Ruth and Little League
- Eagle Scout projects at Tilley Park, Woodland Park, Senior Center, McGuane Park (including refurbished

benches, tables, trails, foot bridges, stairs and plantings): Scouts Matthew Golino, Jon Kelly, Rick Kelly, Andrew McGarey, Andrew Boe.

Park facility requests continue to be a source of high demand with increased need for administration and maintenance. Community events hosted within Darien's parks included: movies in the park, Darien Collectors Car Show, Antiques and Garden Show, the Pumpkin Walk, Push-n-Pull Parade, Big Rig Gig, ITP Triathlon, Tilley Pond Regatta, Concerts at Weed Beach, the Darien Road Race and more. Parks and Recreation continued to share the use of tennis courts with Darien High School through continued cooperative facility use arrangements.

Maintenance of Darien parks improved with solid direction and leadership. Routine tasks – such as raking the beaches, conditioning playfield infields and clearing tennis courts – were undertaken with increased frequency, as were such special tasks as painting at the Darien Senior Center, clearing islands and planting at Tilley Park, regrading infields at the ball fields, and assisting other agencies and departments (Darien Junior Sailing, Darien Youth Commission, sports leagues).

In fiscal 2009-2010, fees for boat and beach permits and paddle court reservations remained at prior year levels. The Parks and Recreation Commission decided the hold the line on the fee structure due to the economic downturn and hold on capital projects.

In the area of capital development, the Weed Beach Building Committee continued the planning for phase II of the project after finalizing phase I (playground and utility improvements). The Committee continued to revise and prepare the remaining facets of the project so it will be ready to move forward as soon

as funds can be released. The lighting of the walkways at Tilley Park was completed with STEAP grant funding from the State of Connecticut.

## Planning and Zoning

The Darien Planning and Zoning Department provides staff support and professional expertise for four all-volunteer local land use boards responsible for reviewing development and redevelopment applications for residential and commercial projects: the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Environmental Protection Commission, and the Architectural Review Board.

During fiscal 2009-2010, the six-member *Planning and Zoning Commission* met 27 times and acted on a total of 59 applications involving such items as: residential, business and coastal site plans; flood damage protection; land-filling and excavation; subdivisions; special permits; affordable housing applications; and amendments to zoning regulations.

In October 2009, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved three temporary portable lights for use by the Darien Junior Football League at Holahan Field and six temporary portable lights at Darien High School. Staff also issued certificates of occupancy in the spring for several new businesses, including Whole Foods Market, Harper's Restaurant, the Goose, and Planet Pizza. In April, the Commission adopted zoning regulation amendments relative to flood damage prevention. The new regulations took effect on May 30, 2010.

The *Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)*, which has five regular members and three alternates, met 17 times during the year and processed 62 applications. Of the applications processed, 43 were granted, twelve were denied, four were granted/

denied in part, and three were withdrawn. Twenty-five of the ZBA applications were processed during the April-June quarter, which traditionally the busiest time of the year for zoning appeals.

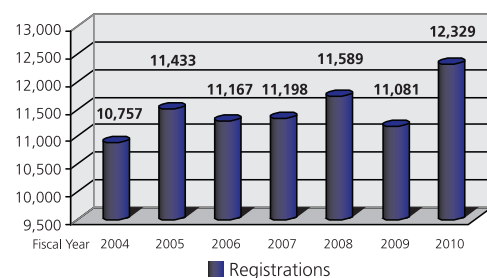
The seven-member *Environmental Protection Commission (EPC)* is responsible for the review of proposed activities in and near inland wetlands and watercourses. During fiscal 2009-2010, the EPC met 11 times and processed 43 applications, 41 of which were approved, one of which was granted in part/withdrawn in part, and one of which was withdrawn. In June 2010, a wetlands map amendment proposed by the Planning and Zoning Department was adopted by the EPC. The amended map includes new information accepted throughout the year, and allows Planning and Zoning to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information to property owners on wetlands and watercourse matters. EPC staff inspection of active projects continues; violation letters are issued on an as-needed basis regarding such matters as filling or tree-cutting within wetlands and associated regulated areas.

The *Architectural Review Board (ARB)*, which is composed of seven regular members and three alternates, reviews plans for awnings, signs and façade changes for commercial buildings and multi-family structures. During the past fiscal year, the ARB met 11 times and acted on 41 applications, an increase of 12 applications over last year's activity. Among the applications reviewed during 2009-2010 were applications for new signage and/or awnings for the Darien Sport Shop, Harper's Restaurant, Espresso Neat and Wild Birds Unlimited, and an outdoor dining application for the Melting Pot.

A total of 458 zoning permits were reviewed and acted upon during the year, *(continued)*



## Program & Permit Registrations







a 21% increase over the 378 permits issued in fiscal 2008-2009. As usual, requests for additions and alterations to existing single-family residences were most common. Overall, there were 20 new residences approved during the year, the lowest total in more than 13 years. Nearly all of the new houses were considered “teardowns” (the replacement of one house on a lot with another). Planning and Zoning staff also reviews generator and HVAC locations to ensure that they meet Darien’s building setback and coverage requirements.

Zoning enforcement continues to be an important aspect of the Planning and Zoning Department’s activities. Both the zoning enforcement officer and code compliance officer are responsible for following up on violations and complaints regarding such issues as wetlands violations, signage issues, illegal commercial activity within a residential zone, and boat storage.

Planning and Zoning staff continues to provide fully updated information via Darien’s website: [www.darienct.gov](http://www.darienct.gov). The site now includes agendas and meeting minutes of the four local land use boards, as well as a comprehensive list of board and commission members. Annual meeting schedules are posted and updated as meetings are added, cancelled or changed. Darien’s zoning map and inland wetland and watercourses map have also been posted, enabling residents to view basic information on properties. In addition, town regulations – including zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, and inland wetlands and watercourse regulations – have been posted.

## Police Department

The Darien Police Department, which operates under the oversight of a three-member civilian Police Commission, has an authorized strength of 51 sworn officers,

six full- time civilian employees, two part-time civilian employees, eight school crossing guards, and 20 traffic agents. The Department maintains a fleet of 18 motor vehicles, two motorcycles, a 27-foot patrol boat, and an emergency response vehicle that carries scuba and Emergency Response Team equipment, while also serving as a mobile command post.

During fiscal 2009-2010, the Police Department recorded 20,261 incidents, including 14 burglaries, nine attempted burglaries, 95 motor vehicle burglaries, 125 larcenies, ten stolen vehicles, two robberies, and 52 incidents of vandalism. Officers responded to 998 medical calls.

**Alarm Ordinance:** During the year, the Department saw an appreciable decline in false burglar alarms – from 1,850 to 1,598 – an indication that the false alarm ordinance enacted in 2009 is producing the desired result.

**Traffic:** The Police Department investigated 558 traffic collisions during the past year, a reduction from the 585 collisions experienced in fiscal 2008-2009. There were two traffic- related fatalities. Officers issued 3,566 traffic infractions, 337 misdemeanor summonses, 755 written warnings, and 2,764 verbal warnings. Seventy-six operators were arrested for driving under the influence.

For the third consecutive year, the Darien PD received a first-place award in the “Traffic Challenge” sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The award recognizes sustained efforts in traffic safety education and enforcement. The Department also received a first-place overall award for its enforcement efforts in occupant safety.

**Grant Funding:** Through the efforts of the Traffic Division, the Police Department was awarded a \$25,000 Hazardous Moving

Violation Grant, which allowed for targeted enforcement in high-accident areas, particularly along the busy downtown corridor. A separate \$46,000 grant was received for drunk driving enforcement, allowing funds for Darien’s first-ever sobriety checkpoints and targeted patrols, both of which resulted in productive outcomes. A \$30,000 JAG grant was used to purchase video production equipment for the in-house production of high quality training DVD’s. An additional grant of \$17,000 was used to offset costs associated with “active shooter” training at local schools.

**March Storm:** The widespread damage brought by the March storm pushed the resources of the Police Department to their limits. On a positive note, the response to the storm identified areas for improvement that were outlined in a report to the Board of Selectmen. All of the recommendations included in the report have been implemented, leaving the Darien PD better positioned to respond to similar events in the future.

**Technology:** Through a generous grant from the Darien Technology and Community Foundation, approximately \$20,000 in accident investigation hardware and software was acquired. The new technology enables accident investigators to more accurately plot and record complex accident and crime scenes using GPS and laser technology. Two license plate readers (LPR’s) were acquired and affixed to marked patrol units. The units scan every registration plate on vehicles passing by the patrol unit, comparing the plate to wanted or expired plates. The LPR’s also identify vehicles listed as parking scofflaws, automatically generating an e-mail to the parking authority with a vehicle description and location. In addition, the Department implemented “Cry Wolf” software to streamline and track all false alarm billing. The software also allows

citizens a secure method of tracking their own false alarm activity online.

**Youth:** Detectives assigned to the Youth Division continue to engage the youth of the community in constructive settings such as “Cop Shop” and the “Youth Police Academy,” both of which are hosted by the Depot. The Police Department now has representatives on the local SADD Chapter; both the Youth Division and Traffic Division were actively involved in the production of an award-winning video on distracted driving.

**Domestic Violence:** The Department’s two domestic violence liaison officers continue to work closely with the victims of domestic violence and attend regular court meetings to ensure that every incident of domestic violence is appropriately monitored and that victims receive the services they need. During fiscal 2009-2010, there were 97 reported domestic disputes, 34 of which resulted in arrest.

**Marine Patrol:** In 2009-2010, the Marine Division handled 100 calls for service; nine infractions and 17 written warnings were issued for assorted vessel violations.

**Reorganization:** The past year saw the Police Department replace a dated organizational model for a model more adaptable to the Department’s current service delivery. The Department is now organized around two bureaus: Field Services and Administrative Services. The new organization more logically groups various units by function, strengthening lines of communication and accountability.

## Public Works

Darien’s Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for constructing and maintaining the majority of the town’s infrastructure of buildings, streets, bridges, storm and sanitary sewers, the refuse

disposal area, recycling programs, two railroad stations and municipal parking lots. Thirty full-time employees work to keep municipal facilities and services functioning at a high level. The DPW is organized into seven major areas of responsibility: Public Works Management & Engineering, Highway Maintenance, Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling, Public Building Management, Parking Facilities and Railroad & Maintenance, and Sewer Collection System Maintenance.

### Public Works Management & Engineering

Public Works Management & Engineering manages all DPW functions, prepares contracts, hires consultants and contractors, reports to the first selectman on a regular basis, prepares engineering documents, performs engineering reviews, and carries out special projects as required. Fiscal 2009-2010 activity included:

- Directed and coordinated more than \$1 million in construction work, including obtaining approval of funding for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects.
- Continued negotiations with the City of Stamford relative to the wastewater treatment plant upgrade and treatment fees.
- Completed repair of the Gorham’s Pond tide gates and dam.
- Increased emphasis on customer service and accountability.
- Increased recycling opportunities for residents.
- Implemented new street rehabilitation techniques.
- Continued to seek out and implement energy-efficient upgrades to existing services and facilities.

### Customer Service Enhancement

On July 1, 2009, the Public Works Department converted to the QAlert computerized citizen work request system.

*(continued)*





QAlert enables residents to submit work requests through the Town of Darien website, providing 24/7 reporting capability and automated e-mail messages whenever any action takes place with respect to their request. The system gives department managers a clearer understanding of a citizen's needs – from their first contact with staff through service fulfillment – while maintaining data on those interactions that is easy to manage and access. The system also provides tools that facilitate tracking and analysis of work requests, thus enabling Public Works to offer better services and improve staff accountability and organizational efficiency. Residents are encouraged to utilize QAlert by visiting [www.darienct.gov](http://www.darienct.gov), clicking on the link entitled “Citizen Work Requests” (under the first selectman's picture) and following the on screen prompts. Requests are forwarded to the responsible individual immediately.

**LED Lighting:** The Department of Public Works vigilantly seeks ways to conserve energy, improve the environment, and save money. Recently, this effort focused on upgrading inefficient outdoor lights using LED fixtures, which have a significantly longer life span (10-12 years) than typical streetlight lamps. New, white-light LED streetlight units are also more durable and damage-resistant than other technologies, and there are no costly ballasts to replace. To date, LED upgrade kits have been installed in all the decorative street light fixtures on the Boston Post Road and in the exterior lights at Town Hall. In March, the Town of Darien received a rebate check from CL&P exceeding \$17,000. The net cost of the project was less than 50% of the cost used for the economic analysis and reduces the theoretical payback to less than two years.

**Street Improvement Program:** In response to economic conditions, the fiscal 2009-2010 paving program was reduced by a third. Because multiple resurfacings tend to create significant problems with driveway

adjustments, new curbing, and adjustments of structures, the program incorporated full-width milling of every street for the first time. Nearly 1.9 miles of street were improved by milling to a depth of two inches and replacing the milled asphalt with new material, thus avoiding the cost of new curbs, driveway aprons and manhole adjustments. Impacted streets included Lake Drive; Charles, Henry, Joseph and Williams Streets; Oak Park Avenue; and portions of DuBois Street, Ledge Road and Pasture Lane. Laforge, Relihan and Old Stone Roads were also improved, as was Duffy's Lane.

**Gorham's Pond Tide-Gates:** While the bulk of the tide-gate work was completed in 2009, the contractor was obligated to return to Darien in order to restore parts of the dam to pre-existing dimensions, as required by the construction contract and DEP permits. Replacement of the concrete cap was completed in November. Final payment to the contractor was authorized and the project closed out. The new tide-gates have a design life of 50 years and should not require any significant maintenance for many years.

**Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling:** Refuse disposal and recycling account for about 40% of the entire Public Works budget. Each year, DPW issues nearly 7,000 residential permits and services. Monthly invoices are sent to 10 refuse companies and 150 commercial permittees. Annual revenue exceeds \$750,000. Accepted recyclables include waste motor oil, wood chips, leaves, logs, brush, construction and demolition debris, mixed paper, newspaper and cardboard, glass and plastic food containers, scrap metals, automobile lead acid type batteries, and air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and freezers.

**Swap Shop:** In December of 2009 DPW forces constructed a shelter on the transfer station site to house a new community swap shop operated by volunteers. The swap shop

provides additional recycling opportunities for residents. Now, instead of disposing of still useful but unwanted furniture, books, electronics, recreational equipment, sporting goods, and computers, residents can deliver them to the swap shop where others can retrieve the articles for extended use in their homes or elsewhere.

**Recycling Opportunities:** By virtue of Darien's new solid waste agreement with City Carting and Recycling, the Department of Public Works has expanded the list of materials accepted for recycling to include # 3 through # 7 plastic food and beverage containers, as well as the previously acceptable # 1 through # 2 plastics. Discontinuing the contract with the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority for recycling on July 1, 2009 enabled Darien to begin generating recycling revenue for the first time. Fiscal 2009-2010 revenue topped \$70,000.

**Electronics Recycling:** Limited electronics recycling is now available at the Darien Transfer Station at 126 Ledge Road. Acceptable electronics waste includes computers, computer monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, external disc drives and computer cables. (Operational computers should be delivered to the swap shop.) Although all recycling is free, residents must display a valid dump sticker or commercial permit to access the transfer station. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of these expanded services in order to divert more material from the solid waste stream, reduce disposal costs, and increase recycling revenues.

**Household Hazardous Waste Day:** Darien's annual household hazardous waste day is conducted on the first Saturday in June. This event enables Darien residents (and residents from surrounding towns) to safely dispose of household chemicals. The Darien Environmental Group provides assistance to the DPW by generating and mailing flyers to advertise the event. A total of 405 vehicles

took advantage of the program in 2010.

**Noroton Heights Railroad Station:** Complete replacement of the staircases and railings at the south end of the platforms has long been a priority. Work on the project was temporarily suspended when the Town of Darien learned that it may be eligible for ARRA funding. Eventually, the project was approved for federal stimulus funding totaling \$500,000. Unfortunately, federal requirements for public procurement and bidding delayed construction until fiscal 2010-2011.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation announced award of the first phase of its ARRA-funded Station Improvement Program. Improvements at Noroton Heights include replacement of the metal canopy roof decking, replacement of the canopy gutters, and filling the gaps around the catenary penetrations. Painting of the canopy structure and the catenary vertical elements is also included, as is the replacement of the existing platform shelter. Work at the Darien station will include touch-up painting, field painting of the canopy structure and railings, and filling the gaps around the catenary penetrations through the platform.

**Sanitary Sewer Issues:** Thirty new customers connected to the Darien's sanitary sewer system in 2009-2010, bringing the total served to 5,112. Emphasis continues on reducing failures at pump stations and sewer system blockages that result in overflows. The sewer superintendent continues to proactively seek and eliminate potential blockages or other problems through ongoing improvements or preventive maintenance. Those efforts bore fruit as Darien's proportionate share of the operating costs of the Stamford treatment plant remained stable. Despite these efforts, the financial position of the sewer operation continues to deteriorate. The increase in customers hasn't been sufficient to offset

the adverse trends that have combined to produce the current funding dilemma. All sewer billings are based on water consumption – which has declined in each of the last five years, a national trend. Since sewer service billings constitute the single largest revenue source, declining water consumption is a significant problem.

Investment income is also down significantly. What was once a significant revenue stream – topping out at \$362,000, or 12% of total revenue in fiscal 2007 – has dwindled to \$82,000, or only 3% of total revenue. In addition, payments to the City of Stamford have risen 150% in four years and exceeded \$2.5 million in fiscal 2009-2010. The Darien Sewer Commission endeavors to negotiate more favorable terms in the renewal of its agreement for sewage treatment with Stamford due by the end of 2010.

## Registrars of Voters

The Registrars of Voters prepare, conduct and give an accounting of all local elections. All voter enrollment lists are computerized, giving Darien the most accurate and current voter information available. The two registrars enroll voters, maintain statistics, supervise all elections and primaries, program the voting machines for each election, conduct the annual canvass of voters, and appoint the moderators and all elections officials for Darien's six polling places.

### Darien Voter Profile (As of June 30, 2010)

Republicans:	6,052 (49.0%)
Democrats:	2,380 (19.3%)
Unaffiliated:	3,908 (31.6%)
Minor Party Affiliation:	14 (<.01%)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12,354</b>







## Senior Center



The Darien Senior Center provides a wide array of programs and activities as it carries out its mission to nurture the physical, intellectual and social well-being of Darien's senior community.



Fiscal 2010 marked the Senior Center's first full year as part of the Parks and Recreation Department, an organizational initiative that helped revitalize building and grounds programs under the direction of the Center's new coordinator, Elizabeth Paris. New programs and collaborative efforts were begun; the interior of the building reorganized; rooms were painted; and carpets and floors were professionally cleaned.

A new phone number (203-656-7455) and computer system were installed connecting the Senior Center with Town Hall operations and increasing outreach to Darien senior residents and their families. Communications initiatives include a monthly newsletter available at the Center and Town Hall and a dedicated page on the Town of Darien website that is regularly updated. Weekly updates and program highlights also are sent to members of the local media to further educate area seniors about Senior Center activities and to encourage their participation.



The Senior Center also expanded its programs and activities during the past year. New offerings include Chinese calligraphy, sketching, monthly high teas, mahjong, and a monthly caregiver educational support group. Long-standing programs, such as bridge, language courses and variety of art, discussion and craft classes, remain highly popular. The Center also initiated partnerships with for-profit and not-for-profit organizations for the purpose of providing financial information services and health and wellness lectures to Darien seniors throughout the year. Monthly musical presentations were also offered. The Center's meal program

remains a nutritious, delicious and exceptional value to all members.

With regard to services, an outpost office has been created for the aging-in-place coordinator to use three times a week and share with Darien's Social Service staff on a weekly basis. A monthly hearing aid maintenance and repair program is offered, as is a monthly blood pressure screening program. The Senior Center also hosts monthly AARP chapter meetings and the AARP driving course, which meets three times per year.

The Senior Center also has added and expanded its intergenerational programs, including several programs and activities with the Middlesex Middle School and Darien High School. During the summer, several college students offered computer classes, musical presentations and "helping hands" to Darien seniors.

## Social Services

Fiscal 2009-2010 saw the Social Services Department actively carrying out its mission to provide a full range of community social programs to promote the physical, emotional and economic well-being of all Darien residents. These programs include the following:

Social Services provides information and referrals in many different human service areas including: financial assistance, how to get help in the home for the elderly, how to apply for and understand the differences between Medicare, Medicare Part D and Medicaid, how to find appropriate help for a troubled child or an adult child with mental health issues, and how to locate transportation for the elderly and disabled. These and many other important services are handled in complete confidence in the Social Services office in Town Hall, in a resident's home (if requested), over the phone or by e-mail. Social Services will

also extend its office hours to meet with Darien residents before or after work.

The Back to School Program – a collaborative effort between Social Services and the Darien unit of the Salvation Army – provides backpacks, school supplies and gift certificates for a new pair of sneakers to eligible Darien schoolchildren. During the past year, 45 Darien children were sent back to school with new supplies and sneakers.

Social Services' Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Programs provided 66 families and individuals with meals during the holidays, while 63 children were provided with Christmas gifts and toys. The provision of these meals and gifts was made possible by the generosity of many individual donors, as well as the Community Fund of Darien, an annual gift and toy drive co-sponsored by the Youth Commission and the Depot, the Darien High School gift drive, and Darien Social Services' funds.

During fiscal 2009-2010, Darien Social Services provided energy assistance to 113 applicants through the state Energy Assistance Program, Operation Fuel, the Darien Fuel Bank, the Darien unit of the Salvation Army, the Community Fund of Darien and Darien Social Services' emergency funds.

Gallivant, a wheelchair-accessible van that provides transportation to the elderly and disabled, provided 1,385 one-way rides during the year. Rides are available throughout Darien and to most places in Norwalk and Stamford. Gallivant rides are free or \$5.00 for those who wish to make a donation.

Through a Connecticut Department of Transportation grant, Darien Social Services has developed a taxi vouchers program for residents aged 60+ and for

disabled individuals. The program, which was designed as a transportation option, enables residents who meet the program criteria to take a taxi at half the usual fare. During the past fiscal year, 1,165 five-dollar vouchers were sold for \$2.50 each.

A Senior Resource Directory is available at the Social Services office or by request through the mail. The directory provides a comprehensive listing of important resources and information available to Darien's elderly residents. Social Services also has a wealth of information about other agencies and resources available to Darien citizens. Residents with questions about programs or resources are encouraged to call, e-mail, or visit the Social Services staff in Town Hall, room 113.

## Town Clerk

The Town Clerk is responsible for maintaining and preserving land and vital records for the Town of Darien. Land records dating from 1820 to the present are microfilmed and stored in a fireproof vault. During fiscal 2009-2010, document recordings totaled 5,210, a significant increase over the 4,405 documents recorded during the previous fiscal year.

In its capacity as Registrars of Vital Records, the Town Clerk's Office issues and maintains birth, marriage and death certificates. As Darien is not a "hospital town," very few births occur in town; in fact, none was recorded during the past year. The Town Clerk, however, is able to access birth records recorded anywhere in Connecticut since 2002, using its State of Connecticut-provided EVRS system.

Since same-sex marriage became legal in Connecticut in November 2008, marriage licenses issued in Darien include a significant number of licenses issued to out-of-state couples. Death certificates

received only reflect deaths that occur in Darien or those of Darien residents who die elsewhere in Connecticut. The Town Clerk does not receive death certificates for individuals who die outside the state.

During the fall of 2009, the Town Clerk's Office prepared for and oversaw, in conjunction with the Registrars of Voters, the November 3rd municipal election. The Clerk's Office was responsible for the creation of the November ballot, as well as the issuance and processing of more than 350 absentee ballots.

Other functions of the Clerk's Office include the registering of trade names and notaries public, and the issuance of hunting, fishing, trapping and other sporting licenses, which, as of 2008, can be issued electronically. Because neither Stamford nor Greenwich participates in the electronic issuance of sport licenses, the Town Clerk is accommodating many non-Darien residents.

The Town Clerk's Office also issues dog licenses, consistent with a State of Connecticut requirement that all dogs in the state, six months and older, be licensed every June. To aid in the process, renewal reminders are sent out in late May to owners of licensed dogs. Thanks to a cooperative effort with the Police Department's Animal Control Officer, more and more dogs are being licensed.

The Town Clerk acts as the clerk of the Representative Town Meeting (RTM), Darien's legislative body. In that capacity, the Clerk's Office is responsible for disseminating information to district and committee members, as necessary. During the past year, the RTM dealt with Board of Education contracts and continued to address Code of Ordinance amendments related to waste management, Pear Tree Point parking, coastal waterways issues and

*(continued)*





retiree healthcare trusts. Time was also spent on issues relating to a FEMA grant, the re-use of 35 Leroy, affordable housing, and a possible leash law.

In addition to maintaining and posting all RTM meeting notices and minutes on the Darien website, the Town Clerk's Office is the repository for notices and agendas for all Town of Darien boards and commissions.

## Town Treasurer

The national economic crisis continued to be a key factor in the Town of Darien's investment earnings for the fiscal year ended June, 2010. Accordingly, the Town Treasurer's most important goal was ensure the safety of Darien's money and keep the non-FDIC insured portion of the town's investments in safe banks with depositories in Connecticut.

According to the Town Treasurer, if all of Darien's tax dollars were invested in FDIC- insured accounts, the town would need to do business with more than 250 banks, all with operations in Connecticut, which is neither possible nor practical. Creditworthiness, therefore, is the key to the Treasurer's role in selecting a bank for investment with yield taking a secondary role.

In the current volatile financial environment, investment earnings were below budget, though it is important to emphasize that investment income was still generated and tax dollars were kept safe. Investment income generated in by the General Fund in fiscal 2009-2010 totaled \$179,423.07; Darien's total investment income was \$205,879.99.

## Youth Commission

The Darien Youth Commission is comprised of seven adults appointed by the Board of Selectmen, a full-time youth director, and a Youth Advisory Committee of between eight and 16 high-school-aged students (at least two from each grade with no more than four per grade). The Youth Commission serves as an advocate for youth services by developing, planning, coordinating and conducting programs and activities focused on the enrichment of Darien youth. This is accomplished through the coordination of more than 500 volunteers. In addition, many Youth Commission programs rely heavily on collaboration with outside agencies and organizations, including the Community Fund of Darien, Darien Parks & Recreation, Darien Social Services, the Kiwanis Club, the Depot, the Darien Arts Center, the YMCA and YWCA, and the Board of Education.

The Youth Commission's role in the community includes the ongoing coordination of "What's Up for Kids," a monthly calendar featuring special events and activities sponsored by local agencies and organizations. "What's Up for Kids" is sent to the local newspapers, the Darien Library Community Calendar and the "All-About-Darien" web calendar, as well as posted on the Youth Commission website. Hard copies of the calendar also are available at a variety of locations.

Youth Commission programs include one-time and ongoing events. One-time events, many of which are the result of collaborative efforts, include: the Halloween Window Painting Contest for middle- and high-school-aged youth; the community-wide movie program benefiting the Social Services Holiday Gift Drive; the annual Community Arts Festival: "A Day to Create;" the Tilley Pond Model Boat Regatta; the annual Family Concerts at Weed Beach (which take place on weekly basis in June); and the annual

Sand Castle Building Contest. Ongoing events include the TOPS program (Teen Options) for middle school-aged children, through which more than 15 social and recreational events are sponsored throughout the school year. Ongoing activities include the town's Summer Camp Program for children entering grades 1-6, and the Middle School Summer Activity Program (MSSAP) for students entering grades 7-9. Each year, more than 300 of Darien's youth participate in these programs. In addition, the summer programs offer employment opportunities to 28 high school and college-aged students and eight area educators. The Summer Camp, promoted as a "total day camp experience," is a combination of small group and large group activities, athletics, arts and crafts, field trips, live entertainment, workshops and more. The MSSAP travels daily to different destinations, using the Depot as its home base/rain location when needed.

The Commission's co-sponsorship of events with the Depot helps both organizations stay connected to Darien's high-school-aged population, while enabling the teen center to offer programs it otherwise might not be able to afford. Furthermore, the Depot Student Governing Board plays an important role in the success of many of the Youth Commission's community-wide events.

Members of the Youth Commission also play active roles in many human services organizations in Darien, including: Parent Awareness; Thriving Youth Connected Communities (TYCC), formerly DCAARB (Darien Coalition to Address at Risk Behavior); the Community Fund's Human Services Planning Council; the Depot Adult Advisory Board; and many others. The Commission has had an active role in the delivery of the results of the Asset Based Survey, which was conducted with students in grades 7-12 in the fall of 2008.


The Youth Commission will continue to support and be involved in the delivery of any programs and services determined to be needed by the student population and community-at-large. One of the members of the Commission's Youth Advisory Committee serves as a representative on the Youth Asset Team (YAT) during the school year. The YAT serves as a link between the TYCC and the high school student population.

In 2009, the YMCA received a "Pioneering Healthier Communities" grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This two-year grant brings together professionals in the community to evaluate and leverage Darien's collective resources in order to develop a community action plan that promotes healthy lifestyles – for young and old alike. One goal of the program is to develop a system of walking trails in Darien. In an effort to streamline operations and reduce overhead expenses, in fiscal 2009-2010 the Board of Selectmen voted to place the Darien Safe Rides program under the auspices of the Youth Commission starting with the 2010-2011 school year.

The Youth Commission's many partnerships and connections reinforce the commitment that everyone in the community has to help Darien youth develop in a healthy, safe and vital manner.







McGladrey & Pullen, LLP  
Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Finance  
Town of Darien  
Darien, Connecticut

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Darien, Connecticut (the "Town"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2010, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Town's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.


We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in "Government Auditing Standards", issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Darien, Connecticut, as of June 30, 2010, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with "Government Auditing Standards," we have also issued our report dated December 27, 2010 on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with "Government Auditing Standards" and should be considered in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

The management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information and the pension and other postemployment benefit plans schedules of funding progress and schedules of employer contributions are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements. The introductory section, combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and schedules, and statistical tables are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements and schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information for the year ended June 30, 2009, was audited by other auditors whose report dated December 16, 2009, expressed an unqualified opinion on such information to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The introductory section and statistical tables have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.



New Haven, Connecticut  
December 27, 2010

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Member of RSM International network, a network of independent accounting, tax and consulting firms.



# Financial Data

# Financial Data



# Financial Data

# Financial Data



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Financial Data

Your Town Officials

(All as of January 1, 2011)



ELECTED OFFICIALS  
and BOARDS

Board of Selectmen

First Selectman

David M. Campbell

Members of the Board

David F. Bayne

Gerald A. Nielsen, Jr.

Jayme J. Stevenson

Callie A. Sullivan

Town Clerk

Donna Rajczewski

Tax Collector

Robert Locke

Town Treasurer

Joan D. Hendrickson

State Representative

Terrie Wood

Judge of Probate

John B. Rearden, Jr.

Registrars of Voters

Thomas R. Dunn

Donald P. Smith

Board of Finance

Martha A. Banks

Lorene E. Bora

Joseph Duwan

Elizabeth S. Mao

Gwen M. Mogenson

Murry K. Stegelmann, *Chairman*

Jon E. Zagrodzky

Board of Education

John V. Boulton, *Chairman*

Elizabeth Hagerty-Ross

Susan T. Perticone

James M. Plutte

George A. Reilly

Clara C. Sartori

Heather L. Shea

Kimberly P. Westcott

Morgan B. Whittier

Board of Assessment Appeals

Richard P. Dolcetti, *Chairman*

Kevin P. O'Connor

Christopher S. Peters

Planning and Zoning Commission

Peter Bigelow

Frederick B. Conze, *Chairman*

Robert W. Finke

Gwynne L. Grimes

Reese Hutchison

Joseph H. Spain

Justices of the Peace

Thomas J. Alessi

Edward M. Axelrod

Eugene F. Coyle

Janet F. Grogan

Robert F. Harrel, Jr.

Cathy A. Hauck

Debra W. Hertz

Eric H. Joosten

Dorothy A. Kelly

Ann S. Mandel

Elizabeth L. Mason

Enid J. Oresman

Joseph Pankowski, Jr.

Marian T. Persico

Carolyn P. Schoonmaker

Anne W. Shaw

Charlotte T. Suhler

Barbara L. Thorne

Marc E. Thorne

Alfred P. Tibbetts

Arlene F. Tulacro

Georgia Ann Von Schmidt

Nancy M. Zengo

Constables

David W. Morgan

William J. Slinsky, Sr.

Joseph Tarnowsky, Jr.

Board of Ethics

A. James Cameron

Eugene F. Coyle

Mary Guimond

Thomas W. Moore, *Chairman*

Carolyn P. Schoonmaker

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN  
MEETING MEMBERS

DISTRICT I (17 Seats)

Term Expires

Bishko, John A.

2009

Grimes, Charles W.

2009

Harrington, Barbara J.

2009

Imbimbo, Anthony V.

2010

Kelly, Peter K.

2009

Nelson, Peter W.

2009

Ness, Mary K.

2009

Piccaro, Christopher C.

2010

Price, John

2010

Puzyk, Bohdana

2010

Schneider, Lois J.

2009

Sini, John Ralph, Jr.

2010

Smith, Flora J.

2009

Tierney, Edward R.

2009

Valentino, Thomas J.

2009

Wong, Priscilla J.

2009

DISTRICT II (17 Seats)

Term Expires

Bacon, Elisabeth C.

2010

Conway, Karyn E.

2009

Howe, James H.

2010

Magida, Martin D.

2009

McGuire, Susannah M.

2010

Marston, Jeffrey L.

2009

Noe, Christian

2010

Ridley, Paige A.

2010

Rudnick, Michael B.

2009

Seelye, Sarah C.

2010

Sheehan, Maureen F.

2009

Smosky, Mark M.

2009

Thorne, Barbara L.

2010

Thorne, Marc E.

2010

Weicker, Penne B.

2009

DISTRICT III (17 Seats)

Term Expires

Bayne, Carolyn G.

2009

Brode, Charles E.

2010

Cardone, Robert

2010

Coyle, Eugene F.

2009

Duffy, Terrence, J. Jr.

2010

D'Urso, Michael A.

2009

Fead, Dana H.

2010

Helms, Susan P.

2009

Lehan, Susan E.

2009

Maroney, Dennis J.

2010

Martens, David B.

2009

Moore, Thomas W.

2009

Olvany, Stephen P.

2010

Pullen, Jack W.

2010

Smith, H. William, III

2009

Voigt, Eric J.

2009

Young, Robert E., Jr.

2009

DISTRICT IV (16 Seats)

Term Expires

Artinian, Harry L.M.

2009

Cameron, Angus J.

2009

Cleary, Maria L.

2009

Davis, Joan V.

2010

Eng, Jeffrey D.

2010

Kemp, Frank B.

2009

Millar, Andrew C.

2009

Morrison, Susan E.

2009

Pratt, Lee

2010

Rayhill, Brian J.

2010

Rycenga, Anita M.

2010

Savage, Sandra A.

2009

Schoonmaker, Carolyn P.

2010

Schoonmaker, Samuel V. III

2010

Weyhe, Philip D.

2010

DISTRICT V (16 Seats)

Term Expires

Adiletta, Mark R.

2010

Balian, Simon U.

2009

Camuti, Christopher L.

2009

Conniff, Adele M.

2009

Dailey, Mark S.

2010

Davis, Jack H.

2010

George, Robert C.

2010

Hennessy, Joanne K.

2010

Nizolek, Diana M.

2009

Orr, Bruce G., Sr.

2009

Patrick, James M.

2009

Russell, Cheryl

2010

Sharp, Karin L.

2010

VanDerKeift, John W. III

2010

Wenger, Virgil E.

2009

Wolcott, John O.

2010

DISTRICT VI (17 Seats)

Term Expires

Adelman, Frank H.

2010

Armour, Karen A.

2010

Baldwin, Barry R.

2010

Berl, Elsie D.

2009

Conologue, Diane G.

2010

Grogan, Janet F.

2010

Guimond, Mary

2010

Hawkins, Edgar M. III

2010

Jones, Bonita L.

2009

(continued)

# Your Town Officials

(All as of January 1, 2011)

McDermott, Emily Q.	2009
McLean, John G., Jr.	2010
McNamara, Christa S.	2009
Plehaty, S. Lloyd	2009
Poli, Richard	2010
Stephens, Bryan S.	2009
Swenson, Gary C.	2009
Whitehead, John T.	2009

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**  
**Architectural Review Board**  
Sean Brown  
Marian Castell  
Rita Gadsden  
Cheryl Greene  
Judith Groppa  
Alison Hughes  
Susan Lawrence, *Chairman*  
Timothy MacDonald

**Beautification Commission**  
Robert Baker  
Sandra Drimal  
Pam Elliott  
Sandra Filmer  
Sabina Harris  
Marcia Meinert  
Cindy Ryan  
John Schlachtenhaufen  
Suzanne Schutte, *Chairman*

**Advisory Board of Health**  
Jose Cara  
Kevin Cunningham, *Chairman*  
Mary Guimond

**Building Board of Appeals**  
Everett Drugge  
Craig Flaherty  
Joseph Kelly  
Robert Rosic  
Richard Wood, *Chairman*

**Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters**  
William Cavers  
Flip Huffard  
C. Lincoln Jewett  
Frank Kemp  
John McDonald, *Chairman*  
Robert Monro  
Walter Raleigh  
Jon Schoudel  
Palmer Sparkman  
Michael Wallace

**Commission on Aging**  
Charles England  
Jennifer Geddes  
Mary Giarratana  
Norman Guimond  
Ron Heinbaugh  
Mary McCarthy  
Pat Morgan  
Joseph Pankowski, Jr., *Chairman*  
Amy Squyres  
Thomas Valentino  
Robin Woods

**Commissioners of Social Services**  
Nancy Herling  
Debra Hertz, *Chairman*  
Holly Hawes  
Polly Lowman  
Mary Ellen Quirk  
Melisse Reardon

**Deer Management Committee**  
Jerry Goersch  
Robert George, M.D.  
Kent Haydock, *Chairman*  
Christopher Hillock  
Eric Johnson  
Rick Littlefield  
Peggy Peoples  
Patrick Peterkin  
Frank Rosenberry

**Environmental Protection Commission**  
Craig Flaherty  
Peter Hillman, *Chairman*  
Peter Kenyon, III  
Richard Rohr  
Wynne Shapiro  
Edwin Sweeney  
Michael Tone

**File Mile River Commission**  
John de Regt  
William Jessup  
Dirk Leasure  
Matthew Marion, *Chairman*  
Raymond Meuer

**Government Access TV Committee**  
Wilder Baker  
Jim Cameron  
Eugene Coyle  
David Dever  
Marilyn Hart  
Lynn Hamlen, *Chairman*  
Michael Wheeler

**Housing Authority**  
Cynthia Ashburne  
Kass Bruno  
Jan Raymond  
Jennifer Schwartz, *Chairman*  
Joseph Warren

**Information Technology Committee**  
Joan Agresta, *Chairman*  
Julia Anderson  
Lloyd Plehaty

**Monuments and Ceremonies Commission**  
Marian Castell  
Edward Carabillo  
Phillip Kraft, *Chairman*  
John Geoghegan  
Philip A. Morehouse  
David Polett  
Karen Polett  
Kenneth Reiss  
Charles F. Scribner  
George Walsh

**Operations Planning Committee**  
Karen Armour  
David M. Campbell, *Chairman*  
Fred Conze  
Karl F. Kilduff  
Elizabeth Smith Mao  
Kim Westcott  
Terrie Wood

**Parks and Recreation Commission**  
Jane Branigan, *Chairman*  
Susan Daly  
Mary Flynn  
Charles Goodyear  
Susan Graham  
Marianne Gutierrez  
Andrew Hunter  
Robert Marchesi

**Police Commission**  
Robert Harrel, Jr.  
J. Paul Johnson, *Chairman*  
Linda Santarella

**Selectmen’s Emergency Management Committee**  
Jim Baker  
Thomas Bell  
Robert Buch  
David M. Campbell, *Chairman*  
Harry Carey  
Carolyn Carlson  
Michael Cotta  
Stephen Falcone  
Joan Gildea  
Ron Hammer  
Olive Hauser  
Frazer Herbert  
Alan Hyatt  
Karl F. Kilduff  
David Knauf  
Duane Lovello  
John McDonald  
Marc McEwan, *Emergency Management Director*  
David Medd  
Gary Plank  
Charles Saverine  
Carolyn Schoonmaker  
Robert Steeger  
Christopher Swan  
Susan Swiatek  
Rick Weatherstone

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
Victor Capellupo, *Chairman*  
Charles Deluca  
Gary Greene  
Alfred Tibbetts  
Jeffrey Williams  
Alternates:  
John Ashburne  
Ruth Anne Ramsey

**Sewer Commission**  
William Doughman  
Rocco Genovese  
Anne Shaw  
Robert Riith, *Chairman*  
Peter Van Winkle

**SWRPA Representatives**  
John Marr

**Town Historian**  
Marian Castell

**Joint Town Pension Board**  
Kelly Galvin, *Chairman*  
Kathryn Hammell  
Robert Harrel, Jr.  
J. Paul Johnson  
Lt. Ray Osborne

Linda Santarella  
Bruce Sargent  
Angela Tozzoli  
Jon Zagrodzky

**TOWN DEPARTMENT HEADS**  
**Administrative Officer**  
Karl F. Kilduff

**Assessor**  
Anthony Homicki

**Building Official**  
Charles Saverine  
Assistant Building Official  
Peter Solheim

**Emergency Management Director**  
Marc McEwan  
**Emergency Medical Services Director**  
Ron Hammer

**Finance Department**  
**Finance Director**  
Kate Clarke Buch

**Fire Departments**  
**Darien Chief**  
Rick Weatherstone  
**Noroton Chief**  
Alan Hyatt  
**Noroton Heights Chief**  
Gary Plank  
**Fire Marshal**  
Robert Buch

**Harbor and Docks**  
**Harbor Master**  
Thomas Bell  
**Five Mile River Harbor Superintendent**  
Raymond Meurer  
**Noroton Harbor Dockmaster**  
Jeffrey Eng

**Health Director**  
David Knauf

**Human Resources Director**  
Nancy Markey

**Parks and Recreation Director**  
Susan Swiatek  
**Assistant Director**  
Jim Coghlan

**Planning and Zoning Director**  
Jeremy Ginsberg  
**Asst. Dir. /Zoning Enforcement Officer**  
David Keating

**Police Department Chief**  
Duane Lovello  
**Captains**  
Frederick Komm  
Gary Pavia

**Public Works/ Sewer Services Director**  
Robert Steeger  
**Assistant Director**  
Darren Oustafine

**Schools Superintendent**  
Stephen Falcone  
**Assistant Superintendents**  
Matthew Byrnes  
Dr. Judith Pandolfo  
**Director of Finance**  
Richard Huot

**Senior Center Coordinator**  
Elizabeth Paris  
**Senior Center Program Assistant**  
Carolyn Lewis

**Social Services Director**  
Olive Hauser

**Town Counsel**  
John Wayne Fox, Esq.

**Tree Warden**  
Michael Cotta

**Youth Director**  
Alicia Sillars





Where to apply for...  
Licenses, Permits and Certificates

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Permit  
Certificate of Compliance  
Certificate of Occupancy  
Demolition Permit  
Electrical Permit  
Heating/Ventilation/A.C. Permit  
Plumbing Permit

FIRE MARSHAL

Blasting Permit  
Flammable Liquid Tank Permit

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Recreational Shellfishing Permit  
Food Establishment Permit  
Sewage Disposal Permit  
Well Permit

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Beach Permit  
Permit for Use of Parks or Fields  
Permit to Rent a Room at Town Hall

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Automobile Repairer’s Compliance  
Automobile Repairer’s License  
Inland Wetlands Permit  
Sign Permit  
Site Plan Approval (Business Zones)  
Special Permit for Land Filling, Excavation  
and Earth Removal  
Special Permit for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control  
Variance from Zoning Regulations  
Zoning Map or Regulation Amendment  
Zoning Permit  
Application to Conduct a Regulated Activity within  
an Inland Wetlands Area

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Auction Permit  
Bazaar, Bingo or Raffle Permit  
Bicycle Registration  
Peddler’s, Solicitor’s, or Vendor’s License  
Permit to Conduct Games of Chance  
Pistol Permit  
Tag Sale Permit

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Refuse Disposal Area Permit  
Street Opening Permit  
Building Sewer Permit  
Garbage Disposal Unit Permit  
Septic Tank Disposal Permit

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Voter Registration

SELECTMEN’S OFFICE

Parking Permit  
Lodging House License

TOWN CLERK

Death Certificate  
Dog License  
Fishing License  
Hunting License  
Marriage License  
Voter Registration

Town Statistics

POPULATION OF DARIEN - FEDERAL CENSUS FIGURES SINCE 1860

1860	1,705	1910	3,946	1960	18,437
1870	1,808	1920	4,184	1970	20,411
1880	1,948	1930	6,951	1980	18,892
1890	2,276	1940	9,222	1990	18,196
1900	3,116	1950	11,767	2000	19,607

OTHER FACTS

Area of Town:	14.9 Sq. Miles
Bond Rating:	Aaa
Date of Incorporation:	1820
Form of Government:	Selectmen Representative Town Meeting
Registered Voters (December 2010):	12,553
Road Mileage:	State: 11.02 Miles Town: 81.08 Miles
Town Grand List (Oct. 1, 2009):	\$8,739,583,725
Town Tax Rate (FY 2009-2010):	11.37 mills



Telephone Directory

FIRE, POLICE OR AMBULANCE  
EMERGENCIES: DIAL 911

TOWN DEPARTMENTS\*

Administrative Officer	656-7338
Animal Control Officer	655-8686
Assessor	656-7310
Building	656-7347
Clerk, Town	656-7307
Finance	656-7334
Fire Marshal	656-7345
Health	656-7320
Housing Authority	655-0866
Information Technology	656-7402

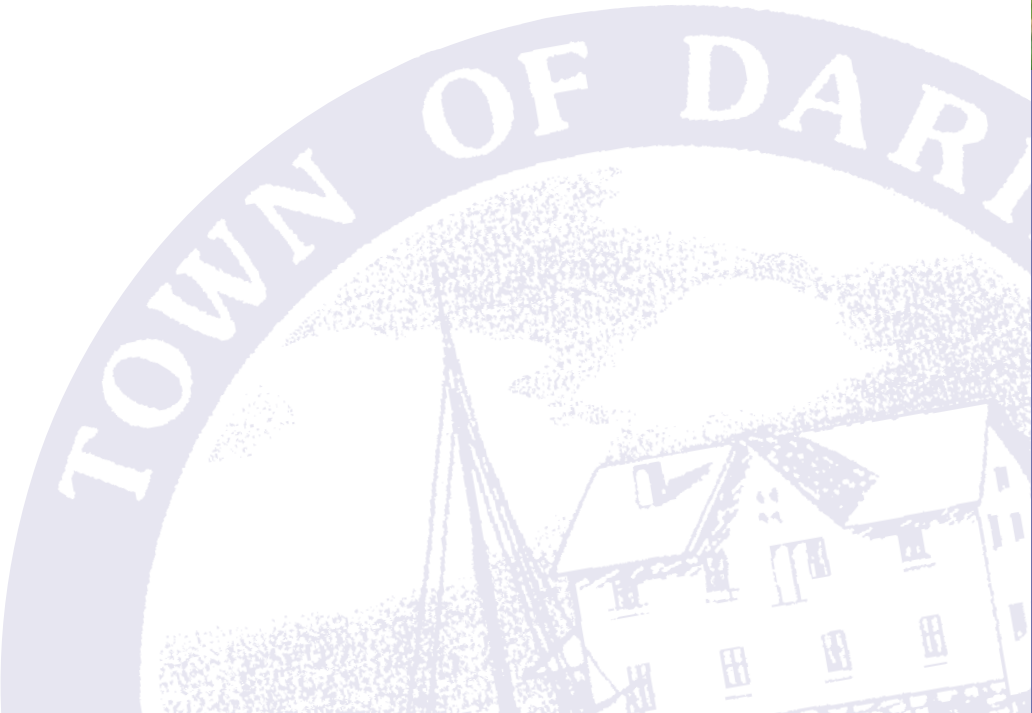
Parks and Recreation	656-7325
Human Resources	656-7390
Planning and Zoning	656-7351
Police (routine)	662-5300
Probate Court	656-7342
Public Works Garage	655-0133
Public Works Director	656-7346
Registrar of Voters	656-7316
School Administration	656-7400
Selectmen	656-7338
Sewers	656-7331

Social Services	656-7328
Solid Waste Transfer Station	655-7663
Tax Collector	656-7314
Tree Warden	866-8614
Youth Commission	656-7326
Zoning Enforcement	656-7352

For information  
on services not listed

656-7300

\*All area codes are 203





Town of Darien  
Office of the Selectmen  
Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road  
Darien, CT 06820-5397

